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THE TIMES

40P

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SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

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New case denounced as vendetta

Defiant Kevin Maxwell faces second trial

By Jon Ashworth and Frances Gibb

KEVIN MAXWELL faced the prospect of another long trial yesterday when the Serious Fraud Office announced that it was pressing ahead with further charges against him.

The decision came seven days after his acquittal on charges of conspiracy to defraud pensioners of shares worth £122 million, and he immediately denounced it as "political". Mr Maxwell's barrister described it as an outrage, and said he would seek to have the case thrown out.

No further action will be taken against Mr Maxwell's elder brother, Ian, but Larry Trachtenberg, who was acquitted with the brothers last week after an eight-month hearing, will be put on trial again. Mr Maxwell and Mr Trachtenberg will be joined in the dock by Albert Fuller, former head of the Maxwell treasury department, and Michael Stoney, a former Maxwell company director.

The SFO's decision to proceed was announced in the Old Bailey courtroom used for the previous hearing and afterwards. Kevin Maxwell said: "I believe I am the victim of a political decision taken by politicians in the run-up to a general election. I do not think the interests of justice will be served by a second trial."

He was supported by his wife Pandora, who accused the SFO of running a vendetta against him. She branded the decision "the last lash of the dragon's tail", and called for a public protest. "I am hoping the public will object to the spending of another £10 million when they could be putting the Newbury bypass underground for that much."

The Attorney General denied the claims of political motivation, however, saying the decision was taken by the director of the Serious Fraud Office in consultation with counsel and the Government's law officers. And Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, Conservative chairman of the Commons home affairs select committee, described the suggestion as arrant nonsense. He said the Attorney General would have approved the prosecution, but the decision would have been taken purely on legal grounds.

The decision to continue with the case was made just before yesterday morning's court hearing. Richard Lissack, for the prosecution, said it had been taken at the last minute after "painstaking" reflection, but there were ill-tempered exchanges in court as defence counsel complained that they had been left no time to consider their response.

Alun Jones, QC, for Kevin Maxwell, described the continued prosecution as oppressive and "nothing less than an outrage". He argued that the complexity of the case meant that a second trial might not start until next January and could last nine months, placing Kevin under further sustained stress.

Defence lawyers will now have to wait until the new proceedings are underway and a decision made on whether Lord Justice Phillips or another judge will hear the charges before they can apply to have the prosecutions struck out. They are likely to claim an "abuse of process" grounds, arguing that the prosecution is oppressive, not in the public interest and being brought for other (possibly political) reasons, and to save the reputation of the SFO. They will also argue that Kevin Maxwell will have been facing criminal proceedings for more than five years by the time the new trial is over.

The SFO has twice before launched a second prosecution against an acquitted defendant, failing in one case and securing a conviction in the other. But in legal circles yesterday, reaction to the decision to proceed in the Maxwell case was one of disbelief. There was a feeling that the SFO was not so much acting in the public interest as seeking to salvage its reputation at huge cost to the public purse.

One QC said the SFO had put its own future on the line. "The SFO has raised the stakes hugely. If it now fails to win convictions, the criticism that will descend on it will be savage."

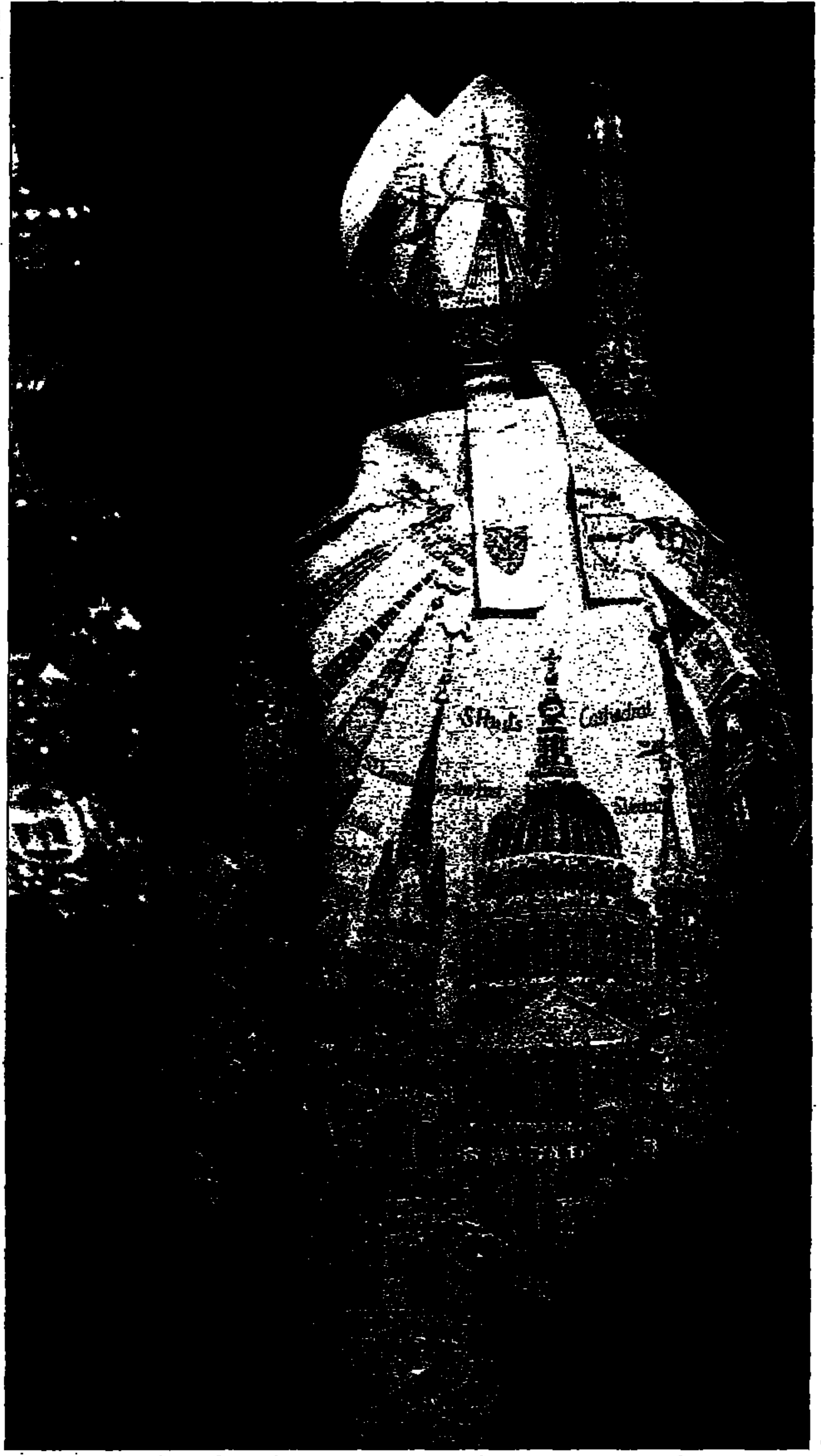
The investigation into the collapse of the late Robert Maxwell's empire cost some £11 million and the final bill of the first trial has been estimated at up to £30 million. But only two of ten original counts were considered at that trial in

Continued on page 2, col 6

Maxwell: "I am victim of political decision"

Melvyn Marckus, page 26

SIMON WALKER



The new Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, in the London Cope, which was made for Bishop Gerald Ellison and depicts several London churches, during his enthronement at St Paul's Cathedral yesterday. Page 10

Hillary Clinton faces press cameras — and a grand jury

From Martin Fletcher and Tom Rhodes in Washington

HILLARY CLINTON held her head high yesterday as she arrived at a federal courthouse for the worst ordeal of her life.

The first President's wife to be subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury was whisked the 13 blocks from the White House in a long grey limousine with police outriders and emerged to face a huge throng of journalists, cameramen and demonstrators.

Wearing a long, black braided coat and surrounded by secret service agents, she stopped at a bank of microphones to say she was "happy to answer the grand jury's questions" and would "tell them everything I know in the hope it will help them in their investigation". In the background protestors chanted: "Tell the Truth."

Mrs Clinton, concealing her nervousness with a smile, entered the courthouse and took the lift to the third floor where she left her entourage to enter a drab, featureless room alone to face Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, and 23 randomly selected Washington citizens.

Mr Starr had summoned Mrs Clinton to explain the movements of records of her legal work for Madison Guaranty, the corrupt Arkansas bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair.

When Mr Starr subpoenaed the records two years ago the White House said they were lost, but this month it announced they had been inexplicably discovered on a table in the Clintons' private quarters.

The records cast doubt on Mrs Clinton's sworn claim to have done only "minimal" work for Madison and Mr Starr, sensing an obstruction of justice, swiftly subpoenaed not only the First Lady but her lawyers, her make-up assistant and the chief White House usher.

Media from around the world had begun arriving before dawn to bag pole positions outside the courthouse. By mid-morning the mêlee thoroughly eclipsed the long queues formed outside the nearby National Gallery to see Washington's other great spectacle — the Vermeer exhibition.

Great banks of cameras and arc lights faced the courthouse entrance, television vans lined Pennsylvania and Constitution avenues, and a circus atmosphere prevailed.

A few Clinton supporters were heavily outnumbered by right-wingers flaunting signs reading "Liar Liar" and "It's Ethics, Stupid".

The White House, conceding this was the day's only story, minutely choreographed Mrs Clinton's arrival in an attempt to mitigate a public relations nightmare. It resisted the temptation to have her sneak in like a criminal through the court's secure underground car park, and aides positioned microphones so she did not speak with the courthouse as a backdrop.

Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said President Clinton had spent time with his wife earlier in the day. He "reassured her, told her he loves her and that she would do a good job".

The previous day, Mrs Clinton made a morale-boosting, image-enhancing trip to New Hampshire and spoke to an adoring crowd of carefully selected Democrats and a group of girl scouts. Cameramen were allowed free access — but not reporters with their embarrassing questions.

Leading article, page 21

Britain freezes in Arctic winds

By Stephen Farrell

SUB-ZERO temperatures and Arctic winds caused hundreds of accidents and closed roads across the country yesterday, and are set to disrupt the weekend's sporting fixtures.

Weather centres reported temperatures of -6C (21.2F) and 45mph winds, causing a wind chill factor of -17C (1.4F). The worst-affected areas were south Wales and northern England, where thousands of homes were hit by power cuts, and hundreds of accidents occurred where snow had settled on patches of black ice.

In the Rhymney Valley, emergency soup kitchens were set up and helicopters flew mobile generators into parts of Mid-Glamorgan and Gwent. Welsh Water was forced to deliver bottled supplies to villages near Merthyr Tydfil after reservoir pumps failed. "These have been freak conditions," a spokesman said.

In Sussex, a 26-year-old woman died when the car she was travelling in skidded on ice at Pyecomb, near Haywards Heath, and crashed into a garage forecourt, destroying several petrol pumps.

The London Weather Centre said worse weather is on the way. "We are expecting the same situation we had on New Year's Eve, when rain froze as it hit the ground."

Forecast, page 24

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Forte facing Footsie axe

Forte, the food and hotels group taken over by Granada, faces the ignominy of being replaced in the FT-SE index of the leading 100 companies next week by Mercury Asset Management.

The fund management company helped to seal Forte's fate by publicly accepting the £3.8 billion Granada bid..................Page 25

Inmates' payout

Seven prisoners who claimed they were left mentally traumatised by the Strangeways jail riots six years ago have reached out-of-court cash settlements of almost £5,000 each from the Home Office..............Page 3

Duchess sued over £100,000 loan

By Bill Frost

THE Duchess of York faced fresh embarrassment over her finances yesterday as a former friend issued a High Court writ demanding that she repay a £100,000 loan.

Lily Rathan Mahtani, an Indian-born society hostess, is said to have lent the Duchess the money for a holiday in France two years ago. She wants the money returned with interest. It is thought to be the first time a member of the Royal Family has been faced with a High Court hearing over an alleged debt. The writ was filed on Thursday while the Duchess, who is thought to be up to £3 million in debt, was lunching at a London restaurant.

Mrs Mahtani, 38, claimed that she lent the Duchess the money in the summer of 1994 so that she could take a six-week break on the Côte d'Azur with her daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, some of her staff and a sherpa mountain guide she met in the Himalayas. The Duchess is said to have repaid only about £5,000.

Mahtani: society hostess

Last week, when news of the Duchess's debts was made public, Buckingham Palace made plain that the Queen would no longer pay her daughter-in-law's creditors. However, the Duchess apparently has clinched a lucrative deal with Ray Chambers, an American businessman, on marketing Budgie the Helicopter, the cartoon character she created.

In addition, she has received a £650,000 offer from the CBS TV network in the United States to host a chat show. A source close to the Duchess indicated last night, however, that she was "highly unlikely to relaunch herself as a television performer now or at any time".

The writ, issued at 3.16pm on Thursday against the Duchess, of Kingsbourne House, Wentworth, Surrey, claims that Mrs Mahtani lent the Duchess £100,000, in or about August 1994, on terms that the loan would be repaid on demand or within a reasonable period. It claims that repayment was demanded in late February last year.

The writ says that, in part payment, the Duchess gave a cheque, dated March 2 last year, for £5,000 and the bal-

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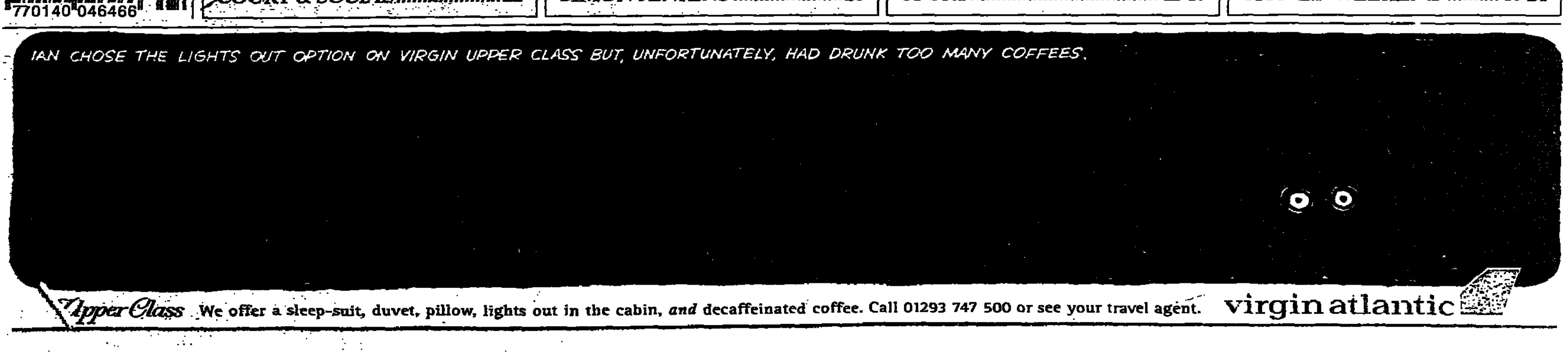


IAN CHOSE THE LIGHTS OUT OPTION ON VIRGIN UPPER CLASS BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, HAD DRUNK TOO MANY COFFEES.

Upper Class We offer a sleep-suit, duvet, pillow, lights out in the cabin, *and* decaffeinated coffee. Call 01293 747 500 or see your travel agent. virgin atlantic

CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

DONALD COOPER

Humanity and humour: Penny Downie, Dulcie Gray and Anna Carteret star in Peter Hall's timely production of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*

Benedict Nightingale

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Read Wilde's play, and you might conclude it is a melodrama with epigrams artificially inserted in the creakier gaps. But Peter Hall's production is a major piece of dramatic reclamation. With Anna Carteret, David Yelland, Penny Downie and (especially) a Wilde-looking Martin Shaw seamlessly in control, there is humanity, humour and timely truth in the tale of the rising politician threatened both by the appearance of the indiscreet letter he wrote in his youth and by his wife's unforgiving morality.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 8800). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.45pm; matinées: Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Why has a revival of a neatly carpentered thriller written 50 years ago and earnestly preaching socialism won almost every award in London, as well as several in New York? Why bother at all with J.B. Priestley's tale of a respectable family's destruction of an innocent girl? Because Stephen Daldry's superbly imaginative direction and Ian MacNeil's wonderfully evocative set transform it into a grand, gripping denunciation of the 20th-century's deadlier sins.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-494 5025). Evenings: Mon to Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; matinées: Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

Clive Davis

JACKY TERRASSON His eponymous Blue Note debut found a place in many of the shortlists as the critics looked back on the outstanding records of 1995. A puckish virtuoso of Franco-American origin, he has the potential to become the most versatile and accomplished pianist since the controversial Keith Jarrett. Muscular yet poetic, he can slip into a funky backbeat on *I Love Paris*, sprinkle Debussy-esque harmonies on *Hommage à Lili Boulanger* and leap into quicksilver Bud Powell mode at a moment's notice.
Jazz Café, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-344 0044), Thur Feb 1, 9pm.

BARBARA COOK/STEVE ROSS Barbara Cook's waltz through Broadway and Tin Pan Alley history is currently one of London's best kept secrets. Do not miss her final week. Wally Harper's piano arrangements are as sumptuous as a full orchestra's, and Cook's subtle vocals lift even the more obscure numbers firmly into the major league. A favourite at the Algonquin and other Manhattan salons, the Cole Porter devotee Steve Ross comes to town with another bulging sack of vintage songs. He will be followed on-stage, later in the evening, by Patricia Hodge and Sheridan Morley, presenting their tribute to Gertrude Lawrence and Jack Buchanan.
Cook: **Café Royal**, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090), tonight, Tues to Sat 3, 9.15pm.
Ross: **Pizza on the Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273). Mon 29 to Sat 24 Feb, 9.15pm; (Hodge and Morley, 11.15pm).

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

SAMSON ET DALILA There is a slightly improvised feel to the Royal Opera's new year programme, with the management bobbing and weaving through cancelled productions and changes of cast, but the unplanned revival of Saint-Saëns's grand biblical opera is all gain: Sidney Nolan's sumptuously colourful decor, Elijah Moshinsky's grown-up production and David Bintley's rather saucy Bacchanale — not to mention "Softly awakes my heart" — all add up to a thumping good evening out. The Greek mezzo Markella Hatzianou sings the temptress, José Cura is the prophet, and the expert Jacques Delacôte conducts.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Tues 30, Fri 2, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

THE MAGIC FLUTE There are few more uplifting experiences than a really good performance of Mozart's fairy-tale morality, and the English National Opera fields a strong team for the latest revival of Nicholas Hytner's fine staging. Alexander Sander's stylish conducting is the perfect springboard for exceptional singing from Janice Watson and Ian Bostridge as the very juvenile leads, Peter Snipp as the birdcatcher and John Connell as — in George Bernard Shaw's words — the voice of God. All this, and you can hear the words too.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), Wed 31, Fri 2, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

ROCK

David Sinclair

FRANK BLACK Joining up the musical dots from Nirvana to Green Day, yet still wildly different to both, Frank Black is here to promote *The Cult of Ray*, his third solo album since the demise of the Pixies. A performer of wit and substance, Black remains one of the perennial heavy hitters of American rock.
SFX, Dublin (003531 284 1747), Jan 27; **Garage**, Glasgow (0141-332 1120), Jan 29; **Riverside**, Newcastle Ⓢ (0191-261 4386), Jan 30; **Manchester University** Ⓢ (0161-275 2930), Jan 31; **Metropolitan University**, Leeds (0113-244 2999), Feb 1; **Leadmill**, Sheffield Ⓢ (0114-275 4500), Feb 3; **Junction**, Cambridge Ⓢ (01223 412600), Feb 4; **Wulfrun Hall**, Wolverhampton Ⓢ (01902 312030), Feb 5; **Bristol University** (0117-928 9000), Feb 7; **Pyramids Centre**, Portsmouth Ⓢ (01705 358608), Feb 8; **Astoria**, London WC2 (0171-434 0403), Feb 9.

A chorus of approval: grandstander Melissa Etheridge

MELISSA ETHERIDGE/JOAN OSBORNE In her element singing old Janis Joplin songs at the Woodstock Festival of 1994, Melissa Etheridge has revived the grandstanding style of the traditional female rock 'n' roll star. Lionised for her own songwriting by Bruce Springsteen and Randy Newman, she dishes out big, strong themes and sweeping choruses, splashed with primary emotional colours. Her current album, *Your Little Secret*, has been somewhat eclipsed by a new wave of solo American stars which includes support act Joan Osborne, who has been nominated for five awards at the forthcoming Grammies.
Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Jan 30.

John Percival

SPRING COLLECTION A chance to catch up with what is happening in British contemporary dance: the Place Theatre and the South Bank Centre combine to offer no fewer than 25 choreographers across three intensive days. There are established creators such as Jonathan Burrows and Siobhan Davies alongside young hopefuls including Mark Bruce. The scheduling allows time to take in all six programmes for a unique cross-section of dance activity.
The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), Fri 2, 8pm, Sat 3, 1pm, Sun 4, 11am; **Purcell Room**, Sat 3, 3.30pm, and **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, Sat 3, 7.45pm, Sun 4, 3pm, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-960 4242).

SWAN DANCE 96 A two-month season of seven dance companies opens in High Wycombe with the premiere of *Crime Fiction* by Arc Dance Company (Fri 2 and Sat 3). Coming in February are Adzido (Wed 7), Aletta Collins (Wed 14), and the black company RJC in *Captured* (Fri 23) and the *Hot Shoe Shuffle* (Mon 26 to March 2). Then in March the Royal Ballet Dance Bites tour brings four more premieres (March 18 and 19) and the series climaxes with Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* (March 26-30).
Wycombe Swan, High Wycombe (01494 512000), 8pm; matinées: Feb 28, March 2 and 30, 2.30pm, March 19 and 27, 2pm. Ⓢ

Richard Morrison

PARIS DOUBLE The Orchestre de Paris comes to the Barbican in the "Great Orchestras of the World" series, which perhaps flatters its status: over the years it has shown us its good points but also its sloppy side. Let's hope for the former as Semyon Bychkov, its youngish and personable music director, steers it through Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony* (Thursday), and a programme of Gilbert Amy (a British premiere), Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with Maxim Vengerov as soloist, and *The Rite of Spring* (Friday).
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Thur Feb 1, Fri 2, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

Maxim Vengerov, violin, plays Mendelssohn at the Barbican

NYMAN'S BACK Half the musical world detests Michael Nyman's pieces; the other half loves them. They are loud, repetitive, mostly derivative and unsubtle — but they create a sound world that is unmistakeably Nyman's own. It usually helps if you have seen whichever of Peter Greenaway's films they originally accompanied. That will probably be the case here: the first British performance of Nyman's *Noises Sounds & Sweet Airs*. It is an opera based on music for *Prospero's Books*, Greenaway's free fantasy on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Singers Catherine Bott, Hilary Summers and Christopher Gillet join the concrete-blasting Michael Nyman Band.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Tues, 8pm. Ⓢ

Geoff Brown

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15) Has Pedro Almodóvar finally grown up? It seems so: Spain's most exportable director has made a film of muted design and sober feelings, with kinks just around the edges. Heroine Marisa Paredes is enduring a mid-life crisis over her work (she writes romantic trash) and her marriage to a Nato peacekeeper. This could be a recipe for caricature and farce, but Almodóvar treats the heroine's pain with touching seriousness.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720); **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043); **Renoir** (0171-837 8402); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366).

HEAT (15) "They're good," Al Pacino's workaholic detective muses, observing the work of Robert De Niro's criminals, who are robbing their way round Los Angeles. And so is the film, nearly three hours long but with few wasted minutes. The stars alone command attention: Pacino like a tightly-coiled spring, De Niro rigorously controlled as the dedicated criminal. Michael Mann builds tension, cutting between cat and mouse. Mobile camerawork and lighting create a Los Angeles of lonely souls, and several action set-pieces set new standards.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636), **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031), **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520); **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332); **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343).

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

SUSAN HILLER In a retrospective at the Tate Gallery Liverpool, Hiller reveals the continuity of her interests over the past 20 years. But the means she adopts never ceases to change. In a work called *Monument*, she brings together the plaques memorialising people who died trying to save relatives or strangers. But the most arresting exhibits employ video with beguiling immediacy. While flames flicker on the wall, a child describes Rembrandt's painting of *Belshazzar's Feast*. Then attention turns to claims, by television viewers, that apparitions appear on their screens. The flames grow larger, inviting us to discover hallucinations in their writhing forms.
Tate Gallery, Albert Docks, Liverpool (0151-709 3223), until March 17.

JANA STERBAK Last year, the Canadian-based Czech artist stirred controversy by exhibiting a dress made of fast-withering slices of flank steak. In a larger show at the Serpentine Gallery, only one exhibit seeks to shock. Called *Seduction Couch*, it is made of perforated steel and gives anyone rash enough to touch it an electrostatic sting. In a gruelling video work called *Condition*, Sterbak films a man burdened by a wire-mesh object on wheels. He drags the appendage round a deserted airport, and only casts it aside at the end. Maybe we can draw some comfort from this small victory.
Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London SW7 (0171-723 9072), Feb 25. Ⓢ

John Russell Taylor

PAUL SMITH TRUE BRIT Paul Smith is one of the most successful British designers of menswear, and has been chosen as the subject of the Design Museum's first major exhibition devoted to a single fashion designer. For him true Britishness has more to do with the traditional eccentricity of the British than with sportiness and understated casual elegance. The show includes a collection of videos of Smith's principal fashion shows.
Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, Shad Thames, London SE1 (0171-403 6933), Mon-Fri, 11.30am-6pm; Sat-Sun, noon-6pm, until April 10.

JOHN DOWNTON Was the Modern British painter John Downton (1906-1991), this touring exhibition asks challengingly, an "archaic misfit" or an "enigmatic genius"? There is, presumably, no reason why he should not have been both. He believed passionately that art had been on the wrong road ever since the early Renaissance, and set about putting it back on track by writing texts, such as *The Death of Art*, and by painting modern portraits in his own meticulously finished manner. Occasionally, in his taste for plump young women, he suggests Botero, but in the main he resembles no one, his cool, almost frigid surface containing, if only just, a volcanic force of emotion.
Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0114-273 4780), Mon-Sat, 10am-8pm; Sun, 2-5pm, until Feb 24.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **COMIC CUTS**: Backstage at the Leeds Empire in 1951, times are changing as old-style Variety is menaced by new, young pop singers. Jack Shepherd's play catches the moment of change.
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4.30pm.

■ **COMPANY**: Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

◪ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI**: Cheek by Jowl's often bewildering production of an already confusing play but Anastasia Hille is marvellous as the beleaguered heroine. Final week.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1746). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm. Final performances.

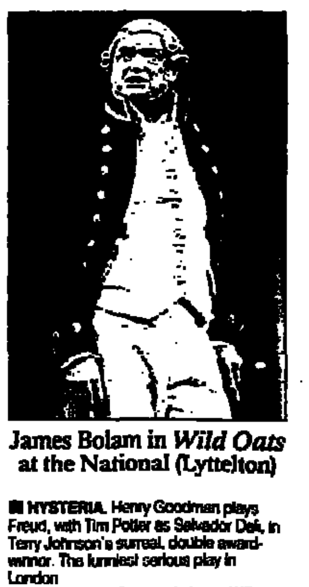
☐ **LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS**: Helen McCrory, Joseph Fiennes, Rupert Graves and James Purefoy play the passionate lovers, of theatre and one another, in Simon Callow's production of the classic French film. Short season only.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Now previewing: tonight-Jan 29, 7.15pm; mat today, 2pm. Opens Jan 30, 7pm. Ⓢ

◪ **THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA**: American musical with book and lyrics by Joel Higgins, who also stars as a state executioner who falls in love with the woman set to be his next "client". Music by Martin Silvestri. One US reviewer called it "original, compelling and fun".
Aldwych, Strand, WC2 (0171-416 6048). Now previewing: tonight-Jan 30, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Jan 31.

☐ **FUNNY MONEY**: Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce; Rodney Bewes is the sorely-tried taxi-driver.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. Ⓢ

◪ **GOLDHAWK ROAD**: Enjoyable new Simon Brett play, almost Chekhovian in feel, though centring on the sexual mishaps of a luxury coach-driver, now facing his end not far from this very theatre. Paul Miller directs.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

◪ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**: Sam Mendes's radiant production: Zoë Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter; Ben Walden is Tom.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm.



James Bolam in *Wild Oats* at the National (Lyttelton)

■ **HYSTERIA**: Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London.
Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Today, 3pm and 7.30pm. Final performances. Ⓢ

☐ **LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL**: Mime, acrobatics and the haunting skills of contemporary visual theatre, at various venues.
Information: (0171 637 5661). Final week.

☐ **THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL**: Mark Arden and Burt Kwouk in revival of Willis Hall's celebrated jungle-war drama; produced by Counterpoint Theatre Co, to follow their enjoyable *The Streets of Dublin*.
Brixton Shaw, Brixton Hill, SW2 (0171-274 6470). Tonight, 7.45pm. Transferring straight to the Albery on Jan 31 (0171-369 1730).

■ ***MACK AND MABEL***: Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. Fine songs, though a troublesome book. Starring Howard McGillin and a delightful Caroline O'Connor.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **PRIVATES ON PARADE**: Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at an Army Camp Party in Malaya in 1948. Paul Clayton directs.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). *Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat*, 2.30pm.

◪ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE**: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe, Malcolm McKee.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

■ **SWEETHEART**: New play by Nick Rosso, author of the acclaimed *Peaches*. Joe Duttine in the title role of the much-loved but feckless and usually skint Charlie.
Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Now previewing, 7.45pm. Opens Jan 30, 7pm.

☐ **THE TOWER**: Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless. Sinead Cusack plays the sex-mad and murderous queen.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

■ **TRAINSPOTTING**: Irvine Welsh's blackest of black comedies, set on the wild side of Edinburgh: drugs, danger and vomit. Last week of the London season after record-breaking tour.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 6111). Today, 5pm and 8.30pm.

☐ **TWO TRAINS RUNNING**: Jenny Jules, Tony Armatrading, George Harris among the strong cast for the latest of August Wilson's decalogue of plays about 20th-century black Americans. Set in 1969 Pittsburgh, in a restaurant due to be demolished. Pauline Randall directs.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Now previewing, 8pm. Opens Jan 29, 7pm. Ⓢ

◪ **VOYAGE IN THE DARK**: Strong and poignant production by Sphinx of Jean Rhys's 1934 novel where a naive 19-year-old, adrift in London, finds her hopes for love hitting the rocks. Recommended.
Young Vic Studio, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363). Tonight, 7.30pm. Final week.

■ **WILD OATS**: Anton Lesser as Rover, the touring actor whose talk is a patchwork of the roles he has played. Highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keeffe's 1791 farce, with James Bolam.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Tue, 7.30pm; mats today and Tue, 2.15pm. Ⓢ

◪ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Less amazing stage effects here but still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ... ■ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ... ◪ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) ... ☐ **Dead Guilty**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) ... ■ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ■ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ... ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ... ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ... ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15): See Critics' Choice, above.

◆ **HEAT** (15): See Critics' Choice, above.

◆ **THE INNOCENT SLEEP** (15): Rupert Graves sees a murder he shouldn't. Creaky British thriller, with Michael Gambon. Director, Scott Michell.
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

MADAGASCAR SKIN: Odd behaviour on a beach. Stillborn British feature from Chris Newby, with John Hannah and Bernard Hill.
ICA Ⓢ (0171-930 3647)

THE MOST DESIRED MAN (18): Broad, mostly pleasant German comedy about sexual identity. Director, Sönke Wortmann.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **SABRINA** (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just does not work. Director, Sydney Pollack.
Empire Ⓢ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **WAITING TO EXHALE** (15): Crude comedy-drama about black women's man problems. With Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett; director, Forest Whitaker.
MGMs: Fulham Road Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18): Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but stiff drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Minema** (0171-235 4225)

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. Director, Chris Noonan.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

BRAVEHEART (15): Overly blood-thirsty epic, with Mel Gibson as the 13th century Scottish rebel William Wallace. Gibson also directs.
Odeon Mezzanine Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15): Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, rose-tinted drama; director, John N. Smith.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS** (15): Splendidly atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles stumbling over corpses, police and corruption. Carl Franklin directs, from Walter Mosley's novel.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **FAIR GAME** (15): Laughable action vehicle for model Cindy Crawford, cast as an attorney in peril. With William Baldwin. Director, Andrew Sipes.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12): Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean. Director, Martin Campbell.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15): Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Pretty pictures, but little oomph. Jean-Paul Rappeneau directs Olivier Martinez and Juliette Binoche.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Lumière** (0171-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

Marisa Paredes stars in *The Flower of My Secret*

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD** (PG): A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories, directed by Frank Oz.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

MUTE WITNESS (18): Mute girl witnesses a film studio murder. Exhilarating and cheeky thriller set in Moscow, with Marina Sudina. Director, Anthony Waller.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SEVEN** (18): Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director, David Fincher.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

SHANGHAI TRIAD (15): Enjoyably opulent gangster saga from Chinese director Zhang Yimou. With Gong Li.
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **SHOWGIRLS** (18): Las Vegas stripper finds success is not everything. Hollow tale of hollow people, brazenly presented by director Paul Verhoeven.
Odeon West End (01426 915574)

TO DIE FOR (15): Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683)

THE UNDERNEATH (15): The classic 1940s thriller *Criss Cross* remade as a stylish puzzle by director Steven Soderbergh. With Peter Gallagher.
Plaza (0171-437 1234)

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Strangeways seven are 'paid off'

Prisoners stressed by jail riot receive £5,000 settlements

By Kate Alderson

SEVEN prisoners claiming to have been mentally traumatised by the Strangeways jail riots six years ago have reached out-of-court settlements with the Home Office of almost £5,000 each.

In what are believed to be the first cases of their kind, the seven former inmates launched claims for damages alleging they suffered post-traumatic stress disorder. A Prison Service spokesman confirmed yesterday that all seven claims had been settled.

However, the Home Office has not accepted liability and the awards have been made because of the huge cost to the taxpayer of taking the cases to court. A spokesman said: "After counsel's advice and careful consideration it was decided to settle the cases on the grounds of costs. The stress has not been proved."

The Prison Service spokesman said that an ex-gratia payment had also been made to a prison officer, but he could not reveal details.

The riot at the Manchester jail, which began in April 1990, lasted for 25 days and resulted in the death of one prison officer. Another prison officer received injuries that may have contributed to his death. Six prisoners were charged with murder and ten with rioting.

Politicians yesterday condemned the Home Office decision to settle. Prison officers said it was an insult to those who worked in Strangeways during the riot who have received no compensation.

Bob Litherland, the Labour MP whose Manchester Central constituency includes Strangeways, said: "My heart goes out to all of them. The Home Office has not even rewarded them with a paltry medal, let alone thousands in compensation."

An official of the Prison Officer's Association (POA) said the Home Office payments could prompt other prisoners to "jump on the bandwagon" and for prisons' staff to reconsider launching actions. However, the Home Office said claims for damages had to be lodged within three years of any incident.

Terence Jeggo, 27, from Manchester, is a former inmate who has received £4,500 over his claim that he suffered a personality change during the riots. He alleged the Prison Service breached its duty of care to him as a prisoner and that the prison authorities should have known that a riot was imminent and taken steps to prevent it.

Jeggo, in Strangeways for stabbing a man, was involved in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue two prisoners from a burning cell at the height of the riot. He claimed he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder as a result. His case was due to go before a 12-week hearing at Manchester High Court.

Trevor Ward, a solicitor acting for Jeggo, said: "He suffered anxiety and depression which led to the breakdown of a long-term relationship with the mother of his children." Mr Ward described the payment as reasonable, adding there was evidence that Jeggo suffered psychological trauma.

Sir Ivan Lawrence, chairman of the House of Commons Home Affairs Select Committee, said damages claims were getting out of hand. "As with claims by IRA terrorists, wives of appalling criminals and other absurd cases that have recently been emerging, most people will be extremely irritated by this."

Dawn Bromiley, of Justice For Victims, described the payments as a joke. "They say they are suffering stress caused by the riot, but what about the stress and pain caused to the victims and families of victims by their actions?"

John Sutcliffe, assistant secretary of the POA, said his members had made claims to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board after riots at eight prisons, including Strangeways, in 1990. Sixty-five claims were made to the board. Forty related to physical injuries, all of which had been settled, and 25 involved compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder, three of which were outstanding. Payments to officers for stress range from £2,500 to £7,500.

Rioting prisoners took to the roof during the disturbance at Strangeways in the spring of 1990

Rock 'n' roll legend to sue theatre over his life story

By Andrew Pierce

THE world premiere of a play about Jerry Lee Lewis at a provincial theatre is at the centre of a legal dispute with the flamboyant musician's family.

Whole Lotta Shakin', is due to open at the Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, on Tuesday. But Lewis, the six-times married pioneer of rock-and-roll, has objected to the theatre's claims that the play had received his family's blessing.

The "warts and all" story was written by Todd Ristau, who spent several months in Memphis, where the singer lives, talking to relatives and friends. It has been tipped for a West End run.

Lewis, 59, whose hits included *Great Balls of Fire*, has spent most of his career in controversy. His 1958 tour of Britain was disrupted by protests against his marriage to his 13-year-old cousin. He was a drug addict for more than 20 years, and was arrested for trying to drive through Elvis Presley's locked gates with a loaded gun. He has also been pursued for millions of dollars in unpaid tax.

The unauthorised musical, which takes its name from one of the singer's biggest hits, is due to run for a month. It tells the story of his rise to fame at the age of 21 and charts how he feel from glory because of the outrage over his 13-year-old bride. At least four of his six wives will feature in the show.

David Monypeny, Lewis's lawyer, said last night: "This play is being produced without the authority of Jerry Lee Lewis. We are adamantly opposed to it and will take all steps necessary to prevent this production opening."

Jerry Lee Lewis: said to be upset by the show

Charles White, official biographer of Lewis, said: "I spoke to one of Jerry's sisters last night. She is terribly upset, as is Jerry. I have a copy of the script which is going to lawyers." In a press release the theatre said: "The production has been developed with full co-operation of the Lewis family."

The theatre is delighted by the controversy. "We have had calls from all over the country," Fiona Williams, public relations manager, said. "We have never even hinted that Jerry Lee Lewis is involved. Our lawyers have checked the script. We have not libelled anyone or plagiarised anyone. So far we have not received any injunctions. It is true that we have not had authority from Jerrry Lee Lewis. We don't need it. The show is definitely going on."

Ms Williams added: "We rather hope Jerry Lee Lewis may fly over as well as our guest-of-honour."

Not all the family objects. Frankie Jean, one of the musician's sisters, is expected at the opening night. The show stars Billy Geraghty, who played Buddy Holly in the West End.

Scarborough fields mayor in bid for Bulgarian glory

By Paul Wilkinson

TWO rival soccer towns are locked in an off-the-field battle over who is to look after the Bulgarian football team when it plays in the European Championship this summer.

Apart from the civic and sporting prestige of hosting the entourage, there is also the matter of the £5 million which 5,000 Bulgarian fans are expected to spend next June when they watch Bulgaria's opening matches in Newcastle and Leeds.

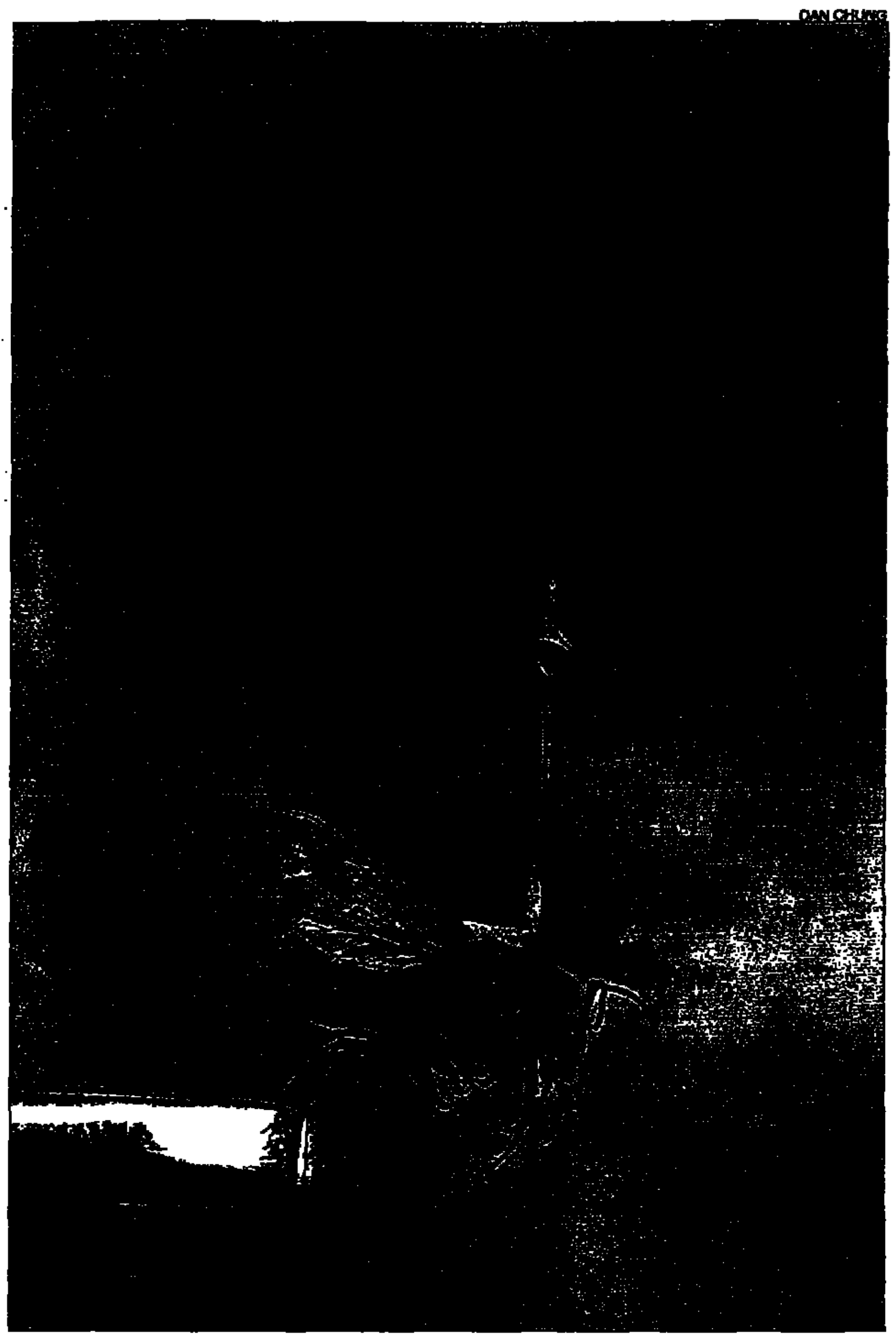
On one side is Darlington, Co Durham, currently sixth in Division 3. Once the grimy birthplace of the railway industry, it now claims to be a centre for tourism. It is pitted against Scarborough, the Victorian spa town, which at present is the penultimate side in the Football League. Until the start of this month Darlington believed it had the match in the bag. A team agent had booked rooms at a country house hotel and the rugby club had offered its ground for training.

But then Don Robinson, a Scarborough businessman who was chairman of the town's soccer club and has hotel interests in Bulgaria, stepped in with a late equaliser. Through his contacts, officials of the Bulgarian Football Union were offered an alternative venue.

John Williams, leader of Darlington council, tackled the move by offering a tour of his area next month to Bulgarian officials. Scarborough believes, however, that it scored a last-minute winner when last weekend it organised its own VIP visit, including lunch with the mayor. Afterwards officials said the Bulgarians were "95 per cent likely" to be bound for Scarborough. A final decision is awaited from Sophia.

Mr Williams said "I have no axe to grind with Scarborough but it would be crazy for them to stay there, especially at the height of the summer, because they would be subjecting themselves to long and arduous journeys on congested moorland roads."

David James, Scarborough's director of tourism, said: "Distance is not a problem; in the last World Cup they travelled for three hours to matches. I am sure Darlington is very nice, but I am convinced the facilities we can offer, both on and off the field, are far superior."


DAN CHUNG

Dr Joe Riley observes a bee with the 16mm radar antenna glued to its back

Scientists create tiny antenna to keep eye on bees

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

BRITISH scientists have invented the world's smallest radar antenna to track bees and other low-flying insects.

The device could improve the efficiency of bee-keeping and help to combat the tsetse fly, carrier of sleeping sickness in central and southern Africa.

The antenna, which weighs three milligrams and is 16 millimetres high, is glued to the back of the bees. Field trials show the creatures can fly normally with the extra load but have some difficulty entering their hives.

Radar has already been used to monitor high-flying insects, but their ground-hugging counterparts could not be tracked because of the signals returned from plants and other objects.

With the aid of a £65,000 grant from the Overseas Development Administration, Joe Riley and his colleagues at the radar unit of the Natural Resources Institute at Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, devised the antenna, technically known as a harmonic generating tag, to get round this problem.

"The tag reflects a harmonic of the radar signals which can be detected even against strong competing echoes from the ground," he said. "The insects are then tracked by a radar scanner with two dishes, one to send the signal out and one to receive it."

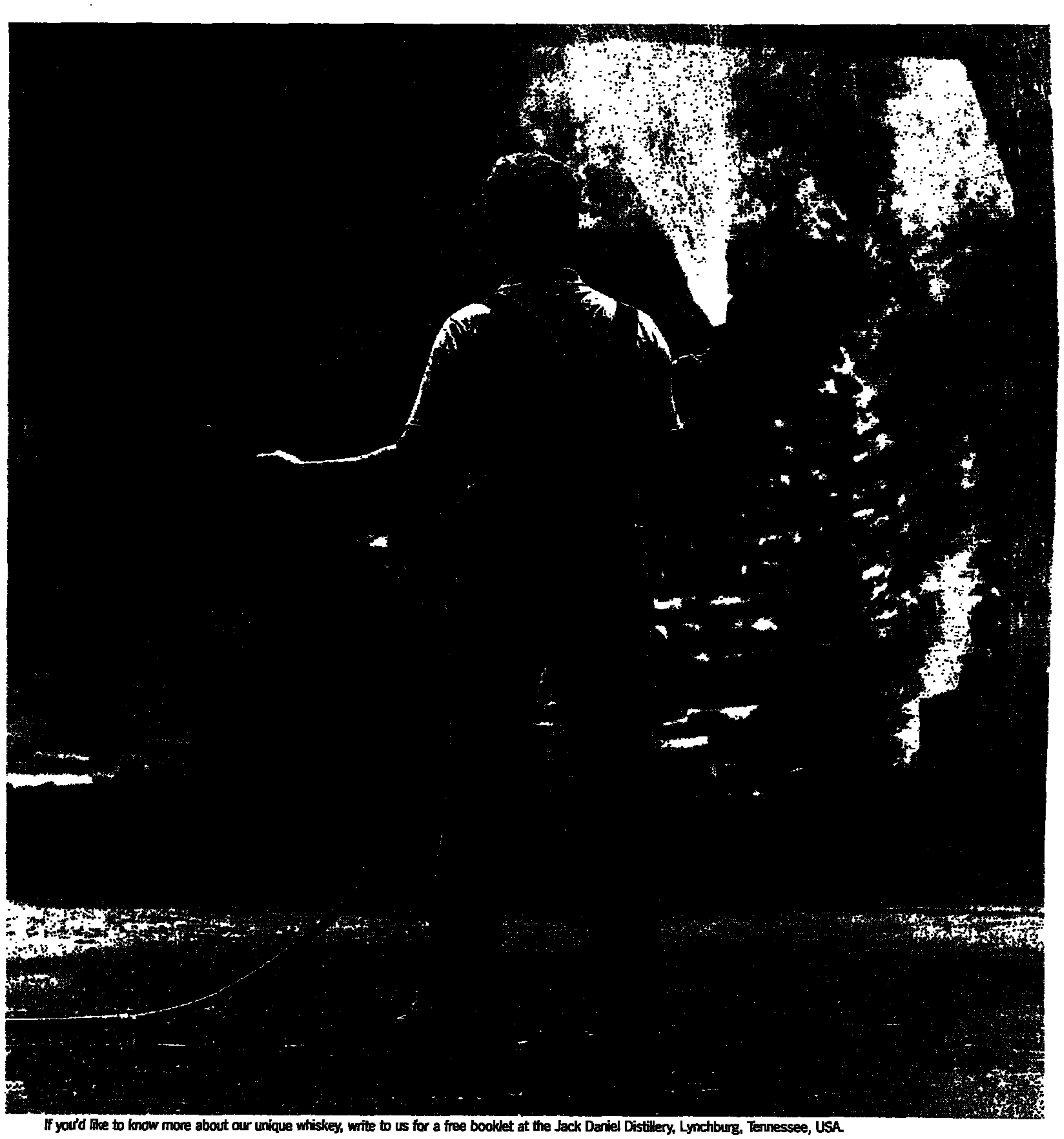
The key to the device's tiny size is its ability to pick up the operating power it needs from the incoming signals, so no on-board battery is required.

The next step is to develop an antenna weighing no more than one milligram capable of being attached to tsetse flies, which themselves weigh only between five and 10 milligrams. Such a device could be ready for field trials next year.

Dr Riley and his team are working at the request of scientists in Zimbabwe who think the radar tag will enable them to control tsetse flies more effectively and without the environmental damage caused by insecticides.

"The Zimbabweans are already using decoys to trap the bloodsucking flies," Dr Riley said. "Rods are placed in fields and covered with black cloth impregnated with the odour of an ox and also the insecticide. But it is a bit hit-and-miss. The aim is to use the radar tags to find out the insects' precise flight patterns, making it possible to site the decoy rods in places where they will catch most flies."

Bees were originally chosen simply because they provided a good model on which to test the antenna. Entomologists now think the tags could also be used to improve knowledge of the foraging and pollinating habits of bees, enabling hives to be sited more effectively and perhaps throwing light on the decline of the wild bumble bee.



If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee, USA.

A HOT DAY AND A HOT RICK can make a Jack Daniel's ricker behave in strange ways.

You can't blame him if he turns the watering hose on himself. (Burning hard maple ricks is hot work!) But the charcoal that results is something our distillery can't do without. You see, we pack it into room-high vats and seep our whiskey down through it, drop by drop. This is charcoal mellowing, and the smoothness it gives Jack Daniel's makes it worth all the cold showers our rickers need.

JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

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Voice denies irresponsible reporting ahead of Brixton police station protest

Condon accuses black newspaper of fuelling riots

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE Metropolitan Police Commissioner has accused Britain's leading black newspaper of helping to incite the riots in Brixton, south London, last month.

Sir Paul Condon said yesterday that *The Voice* had been "dangerously irresponsible" in its coverage of the case of Wayne Douglas, the 26-year-old black burglar whose death after an arrest was a major factor in the riots. Speaking during a radio interview, Sir Paul said he thought the newspaper had "fuelled discontent".

Before the disturbances, *The Voice* printed a front-page report quoting an unnamed witness who alleged that police had used excessive force in arresting Douglas. The paper also featured prominently a picture of Douglas and another of an array of recently issued long batons, which police confirmed were used by officers during the arrest. The article was headlined "Tell us the truth".

The weekly newspaper, which sells 45,000 copies and reaches about 280,000 readers, mainly in London and the South East, issued a statement yesterday strongly defending its coverage. It said: "We are standing by our story. The story was not inflammatory. We are a responsible newspaper and we look at the issues which affect the black community and our rights. We have a sworn affidavit from a witness to the events which took place surrounding the death of Wayne Douglas. Our witness is prepared to appear in court."

Onye Wambu, deputy editor and news editor, said: "We reported the truth. We don't feel our reporting was inflammatory. We would rather he deal with real problems between the black community and the police than shoot the messenger."

Only this week, he said, an inquest jury in London had raised fresh questions over the treatment of black suspects by returning a verdict of unlawful killing on Oluwashijibomi Lapite, who died while being arrested.

In his interview with London News radio, Sir Paul said: "In many ways it's a tragedy that one of the most important papers in the area chooses an editorial line which I think is dangerously confrontational. They have printed alleged eyewitness accounts that were never substantiated. I have been disappointed because *The Voice* should be an influential paper within the black community and recently it's been a wildly irresponsible newspaper."

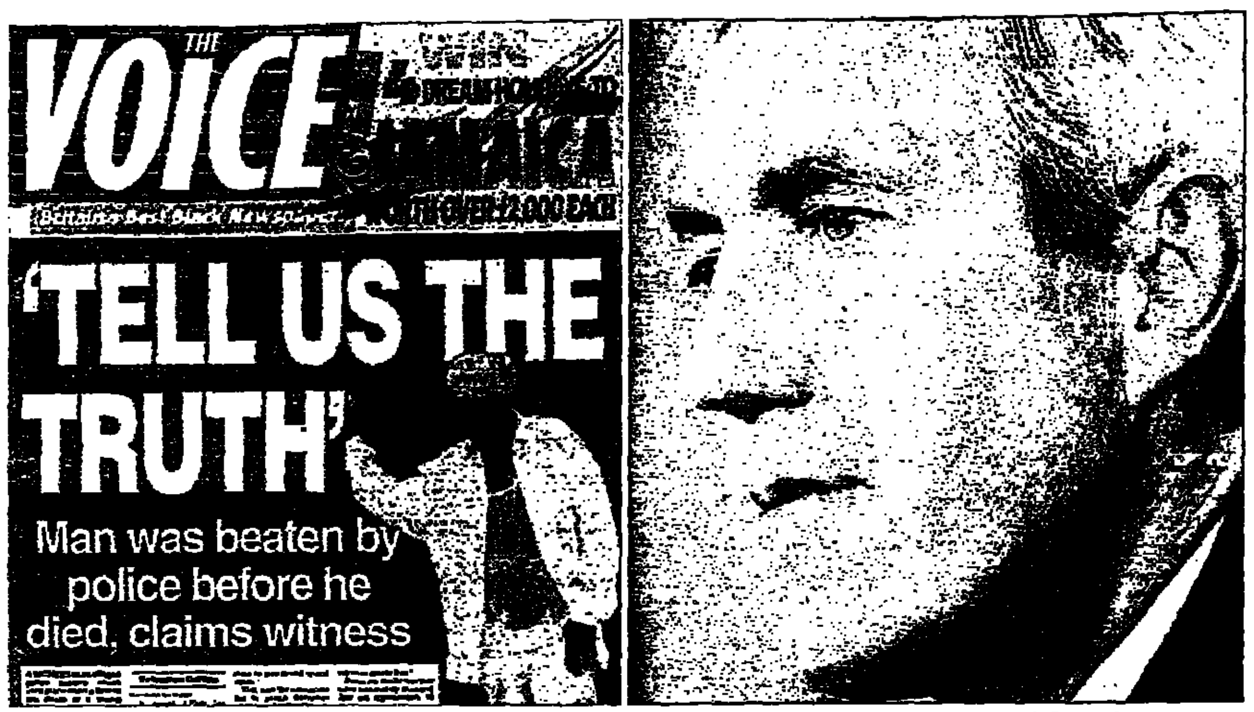
The Commissioner criticised the way *The Voice* dealt with Douglas's death in the weeks before a protest outside Brixton police station erupted into a riot. He said: "They printed allegations which were, I think, unnecessarily inflammatory, that had no substance.

"I'm not prejudging the outcome of an independent inquiry, but to the best of my knowledge the wild accusations that were made have not been substantiated in any way, shape or form." He dismissed as "cobblers" a suggestion that there was a growing division between the police force and the community it served, or that police officers were unrepresentative of the community.

The newspaper is likely to mount a vigorous response to the attack, and Mr Wambu said black leaders and MPs had already voiced their support.

After the riots, Sir Paul condemned speakers at the protest, including Rudi Narayan, the former barrister, for making allegedly inflammatory speeches and launched a police investigation as to whether the comments broke the law on incitement. A report has yet to go to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Last year, Sir Paul upset the black community in London by launching an operation against crime which he said predominantly involved black youths.


THE VOICE
Britain's Best Black Newspaper
'TELL US THE TRUTH'
Man was beaten by police before he died, claims witness

Coverage of the death of Wayne Douglas by *The Voice* was condemned by Sir Paul Condon, right, as irresponsible. He said it helped to incite last month's riots in Brixton that resulted in ransacked shops and burnt-out cars

MPs rush through Bill to punish cruelty to wild animals

By Alice Thomson

ACTS of cruelty to hedgehogs, badgers and frogs will soon be a criminal offence punishable by jail, after a backbench Bill was rushed through the Commons yesterday.

MPs from all sides supported the Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill, which aims to protect wild animals against violence such as stabbing, burning, kicking, stoning, crushing, drowning and mutilation. Pets such as hamsters, rats and rabbits are already protected from "barbarous treatment" under 1911 legislation. The Bill has received support from the pro-hunting lobbies as it does not legislate against fox-hunting, stalking, coursing, shooting, fishing or falconry, nor would it affect farming or pest control.

Kate Parminter, head of public affairs at the RSPCA, said: "This will transform what the RSPCA can do to protect Britain's wildlife."

Alan Meale, Labour MP for Mansfield, who initiated the new legislation, said he regretted that it had not included the hunting of foxes or the use of wire snares but reminded MPs that under a Labour Government there would be a free vote on the abolition of fox-hunting, hare-coursing and stag-hunting.

He told MPs: "The reality is that if I brought such a Bill before this House it would have had little chance at this time to become law. It had to be in the interests of the animal kingdom that I proceeded." Last year a contentious backbench Bill put forward by John McFall, Labour MP for Dumbarton, to outlaw some field sports was quietly stifled by the Government by being given no time to proceed.

Mr Meale cited recent cases where the Bill would have helped to prosecute hooligans who had burnt alive a fox, nailed a vixen to a tree, dragged a fox behind a motorcycle, kicked a hedgehog against a wall, impaled a hare with a three-foot metal spike and crushed another hedgehog by taking turns to jump onto a concrete slab placed on top of the animal.

He said that welfare organisations had dossiers of more than 10,000 such incidents every year which they had been unable to stop.

Meale: regretted the exclusion of fox-hunting

Tom Sackville, the junior Home Office minister, said: "It is a sad reflection on our society that such a Bill should be necessary, that there is a despicable minority of people who are prepared to commit such acts."

Eric Clarke, Labour MP for Midlothian, said he received many letters deploring cruelty to animals. "It is mainly young people who write. They are telling us that there is a demand, a need, for this particular type of legislation."

The pro-blood-sport lobby congratulated Labour MPs for not trying to force a debate on fox-hunting. Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, chairman of the British Field Sports Society, said: "Real progress has been made because all of us who genuinely care about animal welfare were prepared to put aside our differences, sit down and identify the common ground represented in this Bill."

Sir John Cope, Tory MP for Northavon, said Mr Meale had been "very sensible" to limit the Bill's objectives.

The Bill is expected to have a speedy passage in the Lords and will almost certainly reach the Statute Book.

Part-time fireman made hoax 999 calls

A part-time fireman made a series of hoax emergency calls so that he could improve his response rate and avoid losing his job.

Philip James, a 37-year-old sales representative, had been struggling to reach Swindon central fire station within four minutes. He admitted raising false alarms and resigned after colleagues recognised his voice on recordings of the calls. Swindon magistrates fined him £600 and ordered him to pay £1,200 compensation.

Climber's tribute

Alison Hargreaves, the mountaineer who died on the face of K2 in the Himalayas in August, aged 33, was honoured with a posthumous doctorate by her home-town University of Derby. It was presented to her parents, John and Joyce Hargreaves.

Killed by fumes

A verdict of accidental death was recorded yesterday on Alun Pask, the former British Lions and Wales rugby player, who was overcome by fumes as he tried to save his spaniel from a fire at his home in Blackwood, Gwent. The dog had already escaped.

Marquess ban

The Marquess of Blandford was given an interim driving ban by magistrates in Witney, Oxfordshire, for failing to provide a blood specimen and not having insurance. The case was adjourned for further road offences to be referred from other courts.

Brady case fails

Ian Brady, the moors murderer, has been refused leave by the High Court to contest a ruling by the Press Complaints Commission that a photograph of him, taken with a long lens and published in *The Sun* in July, was not an invasion of privacy.

Happy eventer

The world champion showjumper Mary Thomson gave birth to a daughter yesterday at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital but said that she still hoped to take a place in Britain's three-day eventing team in Atlanta, Georgia, later this year.

CORRECTION

Following a rate change yesterday, some of the National Savings rates which appear on page 9 of the A-Z of Personal Finance no longer apply. Full up-to-date details of National Savings rates appear on page 38.

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The *Loch Ness* premiere won't be a monster affair

Highlands Scala plays host to the stars

By Gillian Bowditch

A LOCAL picture palace in Inverness will be the unlikely setting for the world premiere of a Hollywood movie next week. A host of stars have been invited to the launch of *Loch Ness* at La Scala, "the sort of cinema where your feet stick to the carpets", as one of the organisers put it.

Among the celebrities flying in to the capital of the Highlands for Saturday's celebrations are the film's stars, Ted Danson and Joely Richardson. Others the organisers are hoping will attend include Sting, Bob Geldof, Charlton Heston, Emily Lloyd, Koo Stark, Jodie Kidd and Oasis.

Loch Ness, a romantic comedy set around the monster myth, is the third Hollywood film to have its premiere in Scotland in the past nine months and the Scottish Tourist Board is hoping it will give a further boost to the region. It follows on the heels of *Rob Roy* and *Braveheart*, noted for their breathtaking settings and opulent launch parties. *Loch Ness* will be altogether more modest.

The budget for the premiere is £65,000, including air fares and accommodation. By contrast, United Artists spent £1 million on the launch of *Rob Roy*.

La Scala is a twin-screen traditional picture house — with one shop, one turnstile and no bar — that once doubled as a church.

Brian Beattie, a Highlands councillor, said. "You could be snobbish about the venue, but I can assure Ted, Joely and all the other bigwigs that the wee stall at the front door of La Scala sells excellent popcorn and hotdogs."

Crumbling cliff face reveals first set of dinosaur footprints in Scotland

Dinosaur hunter stumbles on Skye's Jurassic past

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE first set of dinosaur footprints discovered in Scotland have been found at a remote beach on Skye. The fossilised tracks of the 6ft-tall carnivore were uncovered by Neil Clark, a palaeontologist and curator of the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, where they will be displayed later this year.

The tracks will have important implications for the understanding of dinosaurs in Britain. They will help scientists to assess how fast the dinosaurs moved, how big they were and how heavy.

Mr Clark, who is recovering from a broken leg, suffered last week when he was trying to remove the fossils, came across the footprints at the beginning of this month. He had taken a palaeontologist from Yale to a beach at Staffin and was showing her some pseudo-tracks, marks in the rock not made by dinosaurs, when he spotted the real thing.There are about ten footprints made by two three-toed dinosaurs, one slightly bigger than the other. The prints measure 20cm to 30cm across and Mr Clark describes them as like "giant bird footprints".

He believes the tracks may be from a dinosaur called coelophysis, best known from remains found in Mexico. Mr Clark found a tail bone of a much smaller coelophysis in the same area of Skye. The tracks date to between 220 million and 170 million years ago, the Jurassic period.

Fossilised footprints have been found at several sites in England but Skye is the only place where they have been found in Scotland. A single print was discovered on the island in 1984. Mr Clark said: "I think this is mainly because the rocks are of the right age in Skye. I found the tracks in slabs of rock which had recently broken away from the cliff face and split in two."

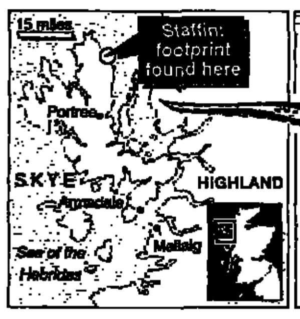
Scotland was separated from England at the time the tracks were made and was much closer to Greenland and North America. Mr Clark thinks the dinosaurs that made the tracks may have migrated from America.

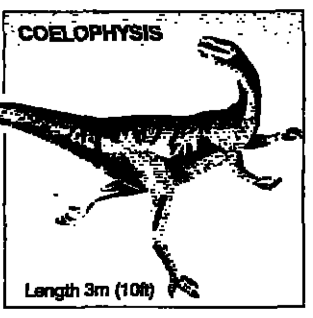
"Every little piece of the jigsaw is important," he said. "It was a very exciting discovery. We were happy enough to go back to celebrate by having a wee dram or two."

The slabs containing the footprints, weighing almost a tonne, have been removed from the site with permission from the Scottish Office, which owns the mineral rights in the area.

It was while supervising the removal that Mr Clark fell and broke his leg. He had to be flown by helicopter to hospital in Stornoway. He will be in plaster for four months, unable to alk for eight weeks, and the injury may delay the display of the footprints in the museum. Mr Clark had hoped to have them on display by March.

The accident illustrated the problems of a planned excavation of the site. "I'd like there to be a proper excavation, but we are dealing with a very high cliff face which would make excavating very difficult," Mr Clark said. "The cliff is eroding which is why these chance finds turn up and why it was important to remove them quickly before they were destroyed by the sea."





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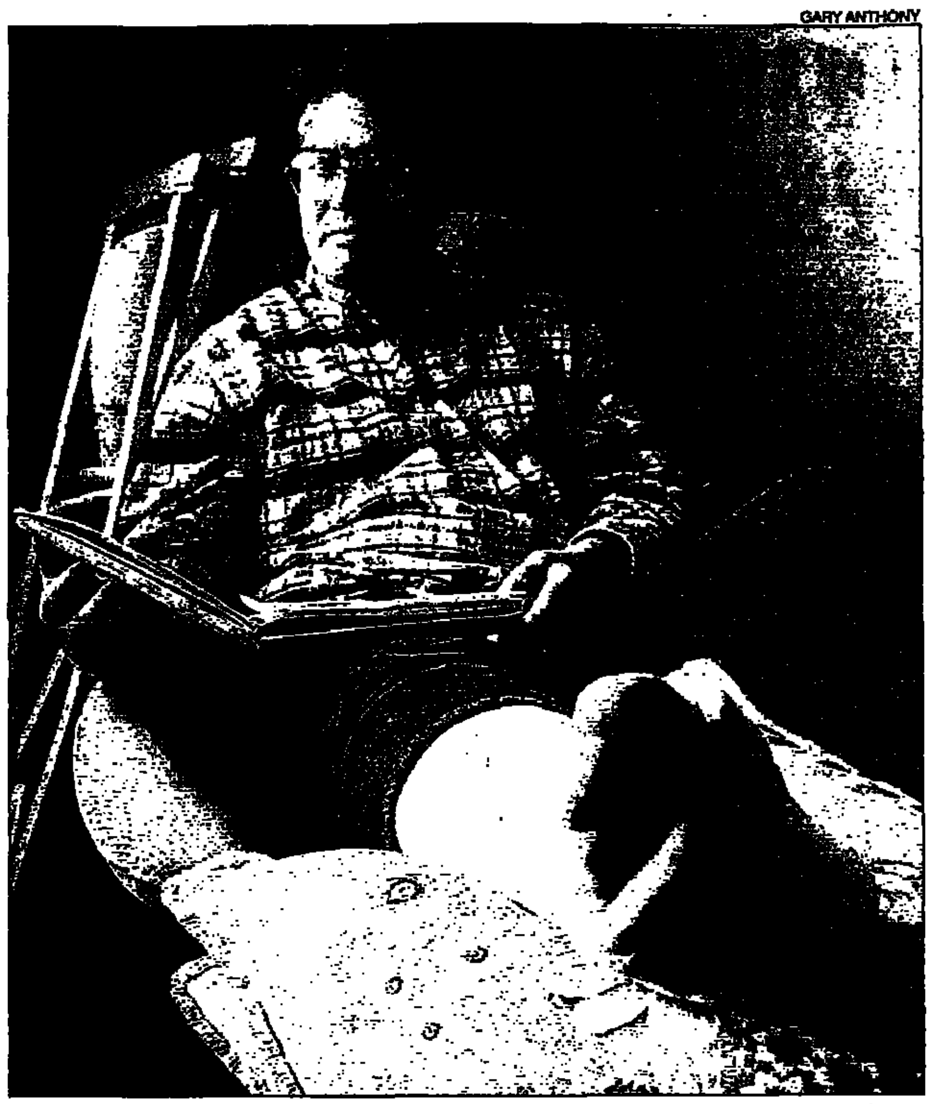

Neil Clark broke his leg while recovering the one-tonne slab that contains the fossilised footprints of the coelophysis. His impression of the beast is below

Builders unearth Stone Age axe

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

A STONE AGE axe has been dug up during building work at a girls' school in Salisbury. The eight-inch flint hand-axe, believed to date back 250,000 years, is one of the biggest found in Britain.

Excavation work is taking place for a new arts centre at the independent Godolphin School at Milford Hill on the edge of the city. Phil Harding of Wessex Archaeology and Channel 4's *Time Team*, has been monitoring the site because hand-axes were also found there in the 19th century. He said: "We got permission to monitor the work to see if anything interesting appeared." A flint scraper was also discovered.

Dating the site is difficult, because such tools were in use for hundreds of thousands of years, but Mr Harding believes it is "not likely to be this side of 250,000 years ago". The tools would have been used for butchery, but no traces of animal bones have yet been found.

With the foundations now in, Mr Harding hopes that excavations for drains could bring further finds.

Branson take-off is up to Gaddafi

By Andrew Pierce and Oliver August

RICHARD BRANSON was last night ready to fly to Libya to try to save his round-the-world balloon expedition if two Arab kings fail to persuade Colonel Gaddafi to allow Virgin Challenger to cross Libyan borders.

King Hassan of Morocco and King Hussein of Jordan, a close personal friend of Mr Branson, have intervened after the Libyan authorities rejected the application to enter their airspace.

A launch from Marrakesh in Morocco is pencilled in for Mr Branson's team, weather permitting, by the middle of next week. Libya is in the direct flight path after Algeria has been successfully traversed. But time is running out for the Branson team. Jet streams, which are essential to the project's success, will die out by mid-February.

Mr Branson said: "Without a yes from Libya we are in serious trouble. I am willing to go to Libya to see Colonel Gaddafi if it will help."

Meanwhile, Henk Brink, the Dutchman who is also attempting to become the first balloonist to circumnavigate the globe, said he would take off without the permission of unnamed governments. Having survived the collapse of the Fokker aeroplane company, which was storing his balloon, the weather is his biggest obstacle. An inch of snow fell in Holland yesterday.

Virgin loses TV court challenge

VIRGIN Television failed yesterday in its High Court challenge to the Independent Television Commission's rejection of its bid for the fifth terrestrial channel. Virgin and two other unsuccessful bidders, New Century Television and UKTV, claimed that the ITC acted unfairly and unlawfully in awarding the licence to Channel 5 Broadcasting after the company had increased the guaranteed funding of its business plan by £100 million. The court said that the bidding rules permitted the increase. A Virgin spokesman said the group had not decided whether to appeal.

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INSIDE

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1015
inside the Magazine

More than 1,100 plates removed from collections across the country

Library thief plundered rare and precious books

By Michael Horsnell

A LANDSCAPE gardener with a passion for antiquarian books yesterday admitted plundering plates from rare volumes worth up to £289,000 in a case which has forced a review of security at major libraries.

Joseph Bellwood, 43, who has been banned under the terms of his bail from entering any library, sold or swapped the precious material with fellow enthusiasts. Southwark Crown Court in London was told that he systematically robbed libraries over an 18-month period, making about £37,000 from the illustrations which he cut out with a sharp hobby knife.

The bespectacled bookworm is known to have removed 1,149 plates, illustrations and prints from irreplaceable books at a dozen libraries including the British Library, the London Library, Birmingham Central and Leeds Central. Closed-circuit television cameras, restricted access, and closer supervision are among security measures designed to thwart similar raids in the future.

Martin Hicks, for the prosecution, said 439 plates had been located and either recovered or their eventual destination identified, amounting to about 38 per cent of the items lost. Bellwood, from Leeds, admitted 12 sample counts of theft and damaging property.

Mr Hicks told the court: "Various outlets have been traced. Cash, cheque or swap transactions took place, and from there it is suggested he has had a proven benefit of something in the order of £37,000."

He added that the charges Bellwood had admitted "represent the substantial part of the criminality on the part of the defendant, but they are not exclusive."

Bellwood admitted stealing seven prints from *The Sporting Garland* by Cecil Aldin; four colour prints from *Picturesque Illustrations of the River Wye* by Theodore Henry Fielding, both belonging to the British Library; *Famous Cricketers* by Charles W Allcock; and 127 illustrations from six volumes entitled *The Holy Land* by D Roberts from the London Library; 37 colour plates from *Empire's Cricketers* by A C Tayler and *Beldam*, belonging to Leeds Central Library; and 14 colour plates from 12 *Vanity Fair* magazines belonging to Birmingham Central Library.

Mr Hicks told Judge Mota Singh, QC, that former Christie's auctioneer Anthony Payne estimated the value of the books involved at between £189,000 and £289,000.

Justin Shale, for the defence, claimed that the volumes were worth £100,000 and Bellwood's benefit £16,000. He asked for an eight week adjournment so these matters could be dealt with.

After the judge agreed to continue bail, which bans Bellwood from leaving Leeds as well as entering a library, the barrister told the court that as far as his client was concerned he "does not wish to see a library again after the problems he has experienced".

After the hearing a spokesman for the British Library said the case had led to the installation of closed-circuit cameras in the past year in areas containing antiquarian books.

The bags of people leaving the library are also checked and regular security patrols maintained to prevent the pilfering of plates.

He said: "We do regard as a top priority taking care of material in the collection so it is available to present and future users. The missing plates from our books have been recovered, thankfully.

"This is part of the nation's heritage. We are making sure it is not easy to plunder material from us in future."

Alan Bell, the London Library librarian, said: "Our security has been under review as a result of this case. Access arrangements and supervision have been tightened."

Joseph Bellwood at Southwark Crown Court, where he admitted stealing plates from antiquarian books

Ministers to ban sale of knives to children

By Arthur Leathley and Stewart Tendler

MINISTERS are expected to ban the sale of certain types of knife to the under-16s in an effort to end the weapon-carrying culture among young teenagers.

Kitchen knives, daggers and "survival" weapons are among those most likely to be covered under new laws planned by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary. The move follows the fatal stabbing of a London headmaster last month and a spate of knife attacks by young people. Mr Howard has already announced tougher sentences for anyone convicted of carrying a knife as a weapon.

The proposed ban was announced as MPs debated the Offensive Weapons Bill, introduced by the Tory MP Lady Olga Maitland and supported by the Home Office. Ministers are to consult on how a ban could be introduced and may amend the Bill or introduce separate legislation.

Tim Kirkhope, Home Office Minister, told the Commons: "Young children simply do not need razor-sharp kitchen knives or commando-style daggers and it is hard to justify why they should be able to buy them."

Last week Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, told the Home Affairs Select Committee that he would welcome any restriction on the sale of knives to young people. "There is a growing willingness by young people to carry knives . . . as part of a street culture," he said.

For many years police have been raising concern about the growing trend among young people to carry weapons. It may be a thin craft knife tucked into a sock, a hunting knife bought from a sports shop or one of the weapons used in martial arts. In 1985 London saw a peak of 2,758 knife offences committed by both adults and young people. By 1993 the figure had fallen to 2,332 but last year it rose again to 2,550.

Investigators have discovered branches of chain stores and small hardware shops prepared to sell knives and axes to children as young as 11 without questions being asked.

Police are, however, more likely to be concerned about the practicalities of enforcing the ban. They feel that the law will have to differentiate between a youth intent on violence and someone using a knife for camping or angling.

Yesterday the Association of Chief Police Officers gave its support to a ban: "The reasoning behind it is logical and understandable."

Novelist's village loses its policeman

By Joanna Bale

THE bestselling novelist Jilly Cooper has lost a campaign to keep her village policeman after Gloucestershire police confirmed that he is being moved to a housing estate near by.

Ms Cooper yesterday condemned the plan to relocate PC Malcolm Shute from the Cotswold village of Bisley to a new station on a housing estate in neighbouring Bussage, in what the force believes is a "more effective use of resources".

She described PC Shute, 25, as a "darling friend", and added: "It is madness to take our policeman away. We want to feel safe in our village and have our own policeman, like we have always had. This is just another erosion of traditional village life."

The new station is among 800 new homes on the Manor Farm estate in Bussage, near Stroud. In 1994 Ms Cooper organised a protest against building the estate and threatened to stand in front of bulldozers. She is also campaigning against plans for another 112 houses in the area, claiming that developers are ruining the countryside.

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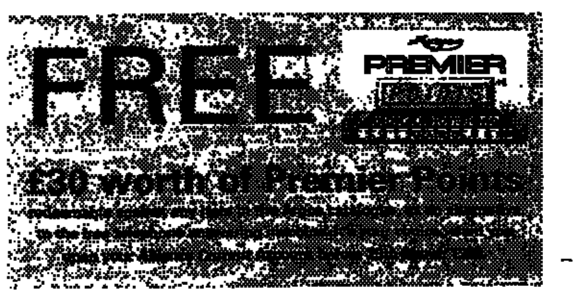

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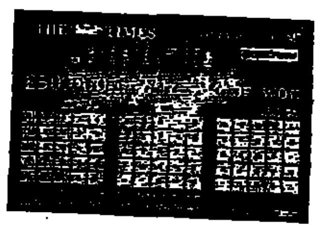

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Late claims will not be accepted for any of the prizes.

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The same rules of how to play and how to claim apply and the hotline numbers are the same for both newspaper and Internet games.

ACCUMULATOR WINNERS
Mrs A Berry of Chearsley, near Aylesbury, Bucks, was Thursday's winner of a free flight with Virgin Atlantic. A total of 342 readers have won £5 Virgin Store vouchers.

THESE ARE THE GAME NUMBERS YOU SHOULD SCRATCH OFF YOUR CARD TODAY **4** **17**

2 FOR 1 VIRGIN FLIGHTS — SEE PAGE 4

هحدا من الاصل

Young children don't want cute little toys — but their parents do, says study

Bear facts reveal the truth behind teddies

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE evolution of the teddy bear has been determined by the survival of the cutest, a group of psychologists has discovered. Their appeal works on the adults who buy them, but not on the very young children who are expected to cuddle them.

The bear facts have come to light in a study to discover when children begin to display a nurturing instinct. The researchers say that up to the age of six, they would much prefer a more adult-looking bear.

Yet since the first teddy bears were made at the turn of the century, the species has evolved by becoming steadily more infantile. From a long-snouted, long-limbed bear, it has been transformed by degrees into a cute, snub-nosed, baby-like creature.

Earlier workers in the field of teddy bear evolution have suggested that baby-like bears are preferred because they stimulate "nurturing behaviour" — the desire to cuddle and cosset. But in *Animal Behaviour*, Dr Paul Morris and colleagues from the Department of Psychology at the University of Portsmouth say that the babies who are given teddy bears are far too young to want to nurture them.

"You would think they would prefer things that would give them nurture, rather than the other way around," he says. Tests showed he was right. Four baby-featured and four adult-featured bears were selected and shown to three groups of children: four-year-olds, six-year-olds and eight-year-olds. The bears were arranged in 16 pairs, in which one of the pair had baby features and the other adult features. The children were asked which they preferred.

Among the youngest children, 17 out of 24 preferred the adult-featured bears, but the preference switched sharply in the older children. Among the six-year-olds the baby-featured bears were preferred by 21 out of 27, and virtually the same result was reached with the eight-year-olds.

The results suggest, say Dr Morris and his co-authors, Dr Vasu Reddy and Rebecca Bunting, that the evolution of the teddy bear has not been driven by the infants for whom they are bought, but by the adults who buy them. The serious point behind the research is to try to establish just when, in a growing child, nurturing behaviour begins. The results suggest that this is between the ages of four and six.

"The nice thing about the study is that it showed incredibly consistent results," said Dr Morris. The team also asked the children what they would do if they were given their favourite teddy. The youngest group wanted to play with them; the older groups preferred sleeping with their bears, or cuddling them, consistent with the development of nurturing behaviour.

Dr Morris says that the study shows that evolutionary pressures are still influencing current behaviour, but the artificial selection of the teddy market has not led to an improvement in the function of the bear as a companion or comfort to young children.

"Teddy bears are now better at being bought by adults, not better at being cuddled by the young children they are usually bought for," the team concludes.

Dr Morris still has teddy bears of his own and says that people used to tease him about them. "So it's nice to be able to turn teddy bears into an academic study," he says. Other adult fans are said to have included Sir John Betjeman, Donald Campbell — who took his teddy on speed record attempts — and Prince Charles.

The first official teddy was made at the turn of the century by the German manufacturer Stieff, after president Theodore Roosevelt declined to shoot a baby bear when out hunting. Last year a Stieff bear was sold for £110,000.

ROLAND LEON

A century of evolution for a species: from left, bears of 1895, 1903, 1923, 1938, 1955, 1966, 1995 and a modern replica of a 1908 Stieff

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Bosnia: the killing fields

❛The 250 men were lined up in rows, then told to go to the edge of the precipice and kneel. Behind them

Jon Swain

was a 60ft slope, then the vertical 1,000ft drop. The gunfire went on for 15 minutes. The men fell into the canyon below . . .❜

Jon Swain on the massacres in Bosnia — News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

Man hurt after 'low priority' 999

By Paul Wilkinson

A MAN who came home to find a stolen car in his garage could be left paralysed after the thieves ran him down in it. Last night the injured man's father blamed the police after they admitted not responding immediately to his initial 999 call. West Yorkshire Police said they had given it a low priority.

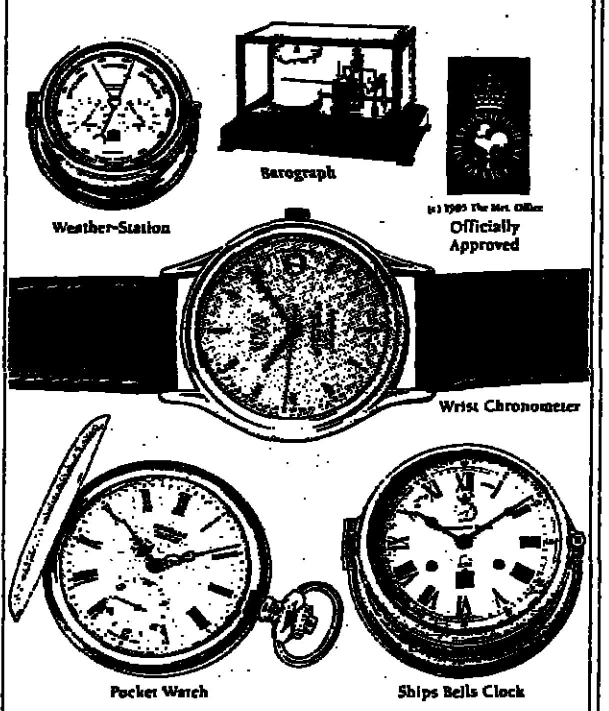
Doctors in a specialist spinal unit at Pinderfields Hospital in Wakefield were yesterday still uncertain whether Neil Patrick, 40, an accountant, would lose the use of his legs permanently after the incident on Wednesday. His father Joseph, 69, said: "If the police had come when Neil called them none of this would have happened."

Inspector Sam Sagar, a community liaison officer, said Mr Patrick reported the stolen car at 5.41pm. It was classed as non-urgent. A foot patrol was dispatched at 6.13pm but had not arrived when Mr Patrick made a second call to report the thieves' appearance at 6.37pm. Officers arrived by van six minutes later.

"The original call came in as a car that had been abandoned with nobody there and therefore it would be prioritised as non-urgent. Mr Patrick then phoned us again to say six youths had just returned. That upgraded the priority," Mr Sagar said.

Mr Patrick, a divorced father of two from Bradford, used his own car to block in the stolen Vauxhall Cavalier SRi. Later, when he saw the youths push his car out of the way he tried to block their path but the youths drove straight at him. He was knocked in the air, and fell unconscious into the road.

Three months ago Mr Patrick chased off two burglars from a nearby house. Ian White, 38, a neighbour said: "He couldn't stand layabouts and we all looked up to him. He protected our neighbourhood from burglars. I only hope he gets better."



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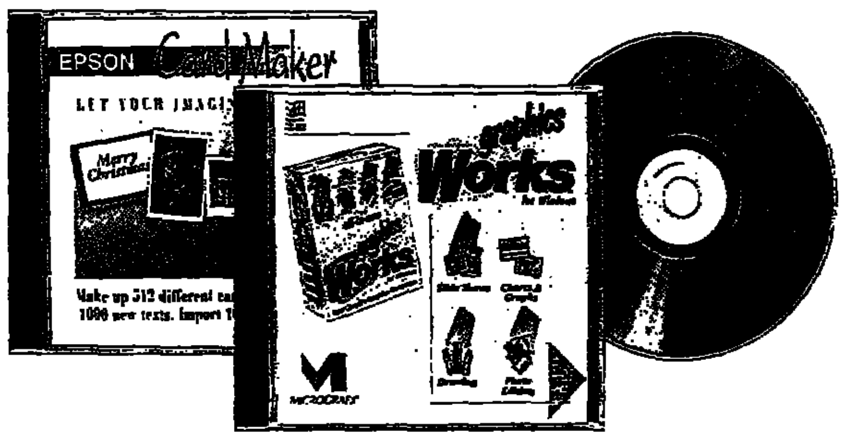

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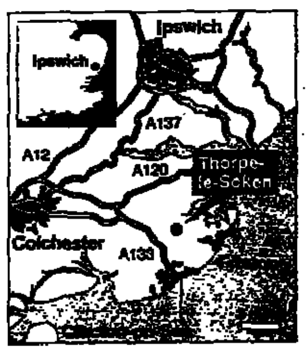
Golf, gardens, lakes — but no Florida sunshine

Essex site chosen for first US-style retirement haven



By Jeremy Laurance

THE first American-style retirement village in Britain, with a golf course and accommodation for almost 1,000 people, is planned for Essex.

Aimed at over-55s weary of a society dominated by the mobile telephone and populated by ever younger policemen, the village is to be built on a 140-acre site at Thorpe-le-Soken, near Frinton-on-Sea.

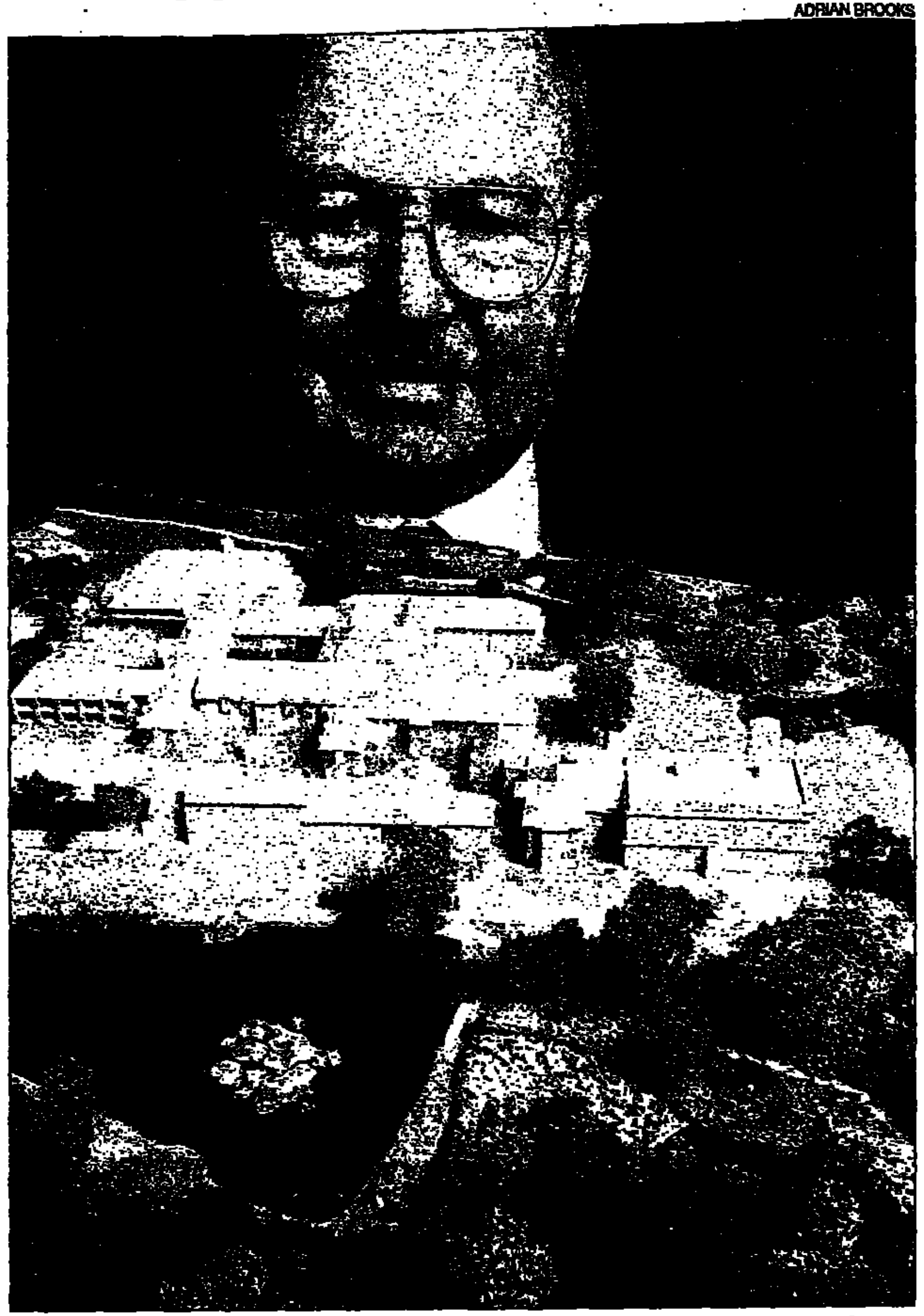
Loosely modelled on the Florida-style retirement cities that provide for all their residents' needs, the Essex village will include shops, restaurants, a medical fitness centre, a swimming pool and a nine-hole golf course "specially designed for the mature golfer". It will not, however, enjoy the Florida sunshine.

The £40 million project will include a 100-bed nursing home, 70-bed hospital, and more than 200 "close care" two-bedroom apartments, with nursing or medical help on call. To keep play moving on the golf course, 140 log cabins are planned, which will be sold to younger people as holiday accommodation on a timeshare basis.

The development will be based around Thorpe Hall, a former convalescent home owned by the Ryan Group. Dating from the 17th century, the Hall was rebuilt in the 19th century and is set in 12 acres of formal gardens and lakes. It will be renovated to include a library, business centre and restaurant with the new nursing home built next to it.

Jeremy Tasker, head of Chesterton Healthcare, the estate agents appointed as advisers to the project, said the Ryan Group was not trying to imitate the "fortress domesticity" of American retirement communities, which are fenced in and patrolled by private security guards.

"Thorpe Hall is three miles from Frinton-on-Sea. We want to integrate it into the wider community. Support may grow over the years for a US-style concept but it would have to be on a much larger scale."



ADRIAN BROOKS

Ken Bass, the project co-ordinator, with a model of the village. It will accommodate 1,000 people and include shops, restaurants, a fitness centre and swimming pool

The first residents are expected to move in at the end of next year but the project, aimed at the top of the market, will take six years to complete. The two-bedroom apartments are expected to sell for about £80,000. Residents will buy nursing services, meals or domestic help as necessary.

William Laing, director of Laing and Buisson, private care consultants, said: "It has always been thought that this concept appeals more to the Americans. Do people capable of playing golf want to live with people confined to a nursing home? It will be a very interesting test case."

Age Concern said that the success of places such as Sun City in Florida rested on the lure of year-round sunshine. "We would urge people to make sure they know what they are buying. We would not want to see ghettos for older people to ensure they were out of sight and out of mind."

An outline planning application was submitted earlier this month to Tendring District Council. Mr Trasker said: "It is bound to be sensitive but we don't expect any difficulties. The project will provide around 300 jobs and bring increased trade to the area."

☐ Increasing numbers of elderly people will be forced to sell their homes to pay for residential care, the consumer research company Mintel said yesterday. The prediction follows a survey showing that less than 10 per cent of adults believe that long-term care insurance is a necessity. Mintel calls for more government measures to encourage people to prepare for their financial needs in old age.

Leading article, page 21

How tennis and canasta keep the golden oldies going strong

From Quentin Letts
in New York

SPORT, social life and Sanatogen are high priorities in America's growing number of retirement villages. Some are built around golf courses; others have communal dining rooms, "wellness centres" and high security fences patrolled by guards with dogs.

The communities, which have names such as Mayflower or Timber Greens, are increasingly popular in a country where the elderly are no longer automatically taken care of by their families. Retirement villages provide entertainment, friendship and, most importantly, security. Jim Sewick, administrator of the Good Samaritan community in Kissimmee, Florida, said: "People don't want to be afraid. We have patrols and a fence. If residents want to go for a walk at 2am, they can and many do."

As the television programme *The Golden Girls* illustrates, Florida is popular with retirement communities, on account of its climate, but they can be found across the United States. Euphemisms are popular. Several communities refer to "the campus", hoping to suggest a return to university days. Financial arrangements vary, with some villages charging a monthly rate, others demanding a hefty downpayment which will be returned when the resident "leaves" the community (in a box). A minimum age of 62 is often stipulated before a resident can be accepted. Typical costs may include a £13,000 entrance fee and monthly service fees of £500, but these may increase if a village has amenities such as an Alzheimer's unit or a dementia centre. Other villages offer frequent bus shuttles to clinics and chemists. At the award-winning, 8,300-acre Timber Greens community in New Port Richey, Florida, villas cost between £64,000 and £122,000 (lawn-mowing included). Homeowners are encouraged to engage in "youthful thinking" and play tennis with fellow retirees. Palm trees offer shade from the Florida sun and the chief danger seems to come from ill-struck golf balls — Timber Greens is built around an 18-hole course.

The Golden Girls: doctors believe companionship and communal living can help people to live longer

The mood in US retirement villages falls somewhere between *The Golden Girls* and *Waiting for God*. Social activity directors cajole residents into Canasta evenings, gentle aerobics and self-improvement classes. Laverne Joseph of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing said: "Several community bars hold a happy hour from four to six on Fridays. That is always a very active time." It is a far cry from the bedpan image of traditional old people's homes.

Doctors believe that socialising improves health among the elderly, says Mr Joseph. "The theory is that in old age your health will deteriorate if you have a sense of isolation and if you lack stimulating activity." The communities are thriving, and many now have waiting lists — testimony to the longevity they claim to promote.

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مكتبة الأمل

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Patients say doctors failed to spell out risks of malaria drug

By Nigel Williamson

DOCTORS are failing to warn patients of the potential side-effects of an anti-malaria drug that the manufacturer admits can cause severe psychological problems in some travellers.

More than 20 people suffering serious reactions to Lariam, the strongest anti-malaria drug on the market, have contacted *The Times* after a news report about its potential dangers four days ago.

All reported suffering psychological disturbance, fits or panic attacks after taking the drug. They all also complained that they had not been warned of possible side-effects when the drug was prescribed by their GP.

Dr Paul Clark, head of the British Airways Immunisation Clinic in London, said: "We do still prescribe Lariam but we are always particularly careful to offer full counselling about its side-effects and we are always very careful to ask detailed questions about medical history. All doctors should do the same."

Dr Thomas Stuttaford, the *Times* doctor, said that doctors must give a warning and investigate medical histories. People with liver or kidney complaints or a history of depression or other psychological illness should not be given the drug. The manufacturer, Roche, concedes that 22 per cent of people will experience some side-effects but says its research shows that only one in 10,000 suffers "serious" problems. Lesser side-effects include dizziness and loss of balance, skin rashes and gastro-intestinal problems. However, research due to be published in the British Medical Journal shortly will heighten the debate about the dangers of severe reaction.

More than 70 sufferers are seeking legal aid to pursue a group action against Roche, seeking compensation. In view of reaction to the *Times* report, the figure could rise further. Dr Hamish Mackie, 43, a lecturer at Strathclyde University who contacted *The Times*, said he had been prescribed Lariam before a visit to Thailand in April last year. He collapsed in Bangkok on the day before he was due to return and blames the drug. "I had three months off work. I felt so stressed I had to lie down in a darkened room. I was finding it too stressful even to cross a road," he said. He also developed flu which persisted for two months. He said his GP had failed to warn him of the risks.

Stuttaford: says doctors must scrutinise patients' records

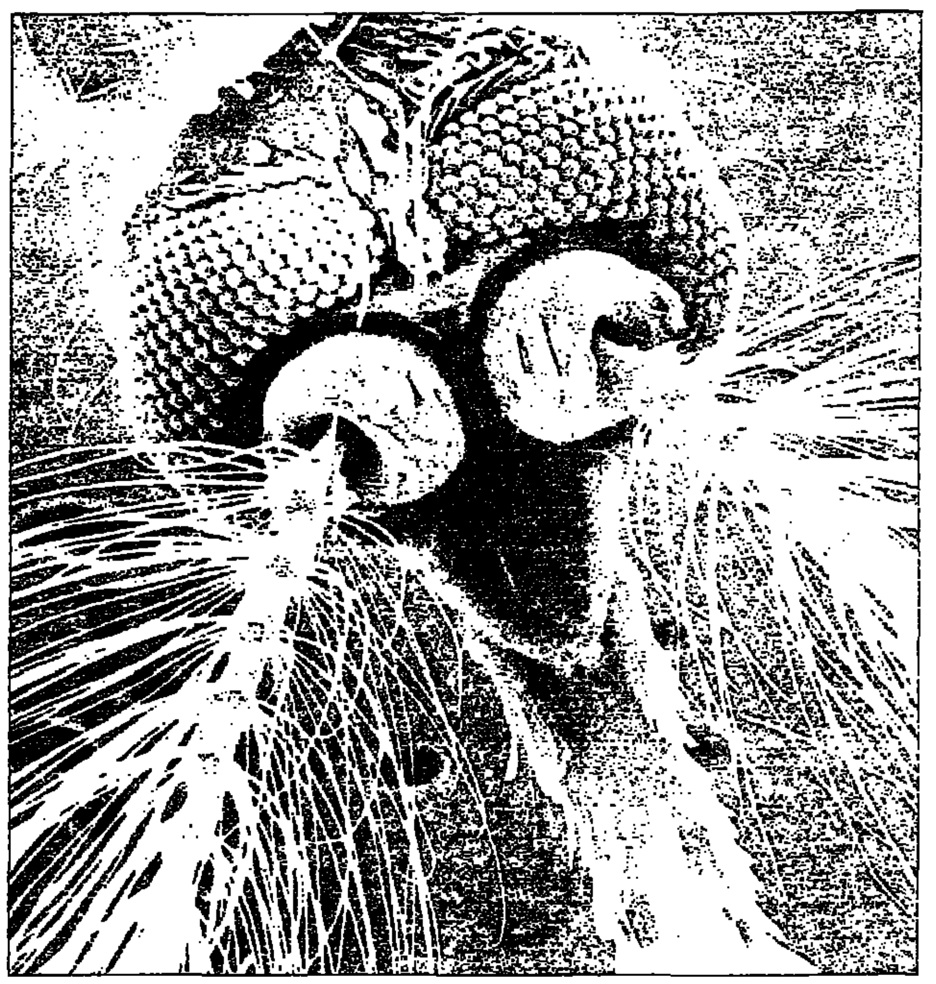
Shirley Gallagher, 27, the press officer of the animal charity Born Free, experienced panic attacks after being taking Lariam for a trip to Venezuela and was sent to hospital. She has since found it too stressful to return to work, although she continues to work from home. "I feel awful," she said. "It seems to change your personality. I don't feel able to go to the office."

A 40-year-old sales manager with an insurance company in Dorset believes that Lariam destroyed his family and his career. "I went on the holiday of a lifetime in July last year with my wife and daughter to Kenya," he said. "After we got back I began behaving totally irrationally. I lost my job after I punched the boss and left my wife and daughter. One is loath to blame misfortune on someone else but it is Lariam. There is no other explanation." He returned to his wife and daughter last week. "My wife told me that person just wasn't me. It was the drug."

Several people taking the drug have reported hallucinations. A student from Exeter, who asked not to be named, said: "I took Lariam a year ago for a visit to Africa and started hallucinating. I was given an orange to eat at the airport and I thought it was alive. It was moving. I still get panic attacks today."

When Lariam appeared on the market in 1990 it was hailed as a breakthrough in the fight against a disease which kills about 20 British travellers to Africa, India and other tropical zones every year. Based on the drug mefloquine it was first developed by the US Army in Vietnam.

Roche has circulated GPs and travel clinics with information about the side-effects of the drug but stands by its research results.



The mosquito spreads malaria and other diseases that still threaten travellers

Clergy fear cinema's crosses will offend

By Robin Young

A FORMER Archbishop of Canterbury has joined a campaign to have stone crosses removed from a chapel before it is converted into a cinema.

The Rt Rev Lord Coggan, Archbishop from 1974 until 1980, is among a score of church and army leaders who have written to city planners in Winchester, Hampshire, to ask that three crosses be taken from the roof of the former garrison chapel at the Pensinsula Barracks before the cinema opens next month. He said yesterday: "I think it will muddle people's minds to see a cinema with three crosses on its roof. I have no difficulty with the conversion of churches to secular use, but I do not think crosses should remain on a cinema."

Canon Colin Deedes, a former Master of St Cross in Winchester, said: "They could be an offence to all for whom the Christian symbol is deeply significant."

The city planners say that because the former chapel is a listed building the crosses cannot be removed without permission from English Heritage. The cinema's management has suggested covering them with metal discs so that they cannot be seen.

Britain's Hollywood bows out to bingo

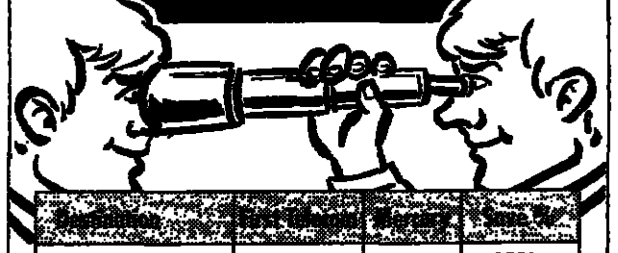
By Robin Young

THE Gainsborough film studios, once the most famous in the British film industry, are likely to be pulled down to make way for a bingo hall.

A small exhibition in the foyer will be the only reminder of 30 years of film production in which the studios, beside a canal in Hoxton, east London, produced a succession of quintessentially British classics under the trademark of the Gainsborough Lady, based on a portrait by the artist.

The studios started as the British headquarters of Paramount in 1919 and were taken over by Michael Balcon's Gainsborough Pictures in 1924. Alfred Hitchcock made his first important film, *The Lodger*, there in 1926 and returned in 1938 to make one of his most famous, *The Lady Vanishes*. Throughout the 1930s Britain's "Hollywood by the canal" kept up a steady output of popular films.

But with increasing costs and the advent of television Gainsborough Pictures went out of production in the early 1950s and the studios closed. Top Rank has filed an application for a 2,000-seat bingo hall and 24 flats on the site.



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Church needs strategy for all ages to stop 'decline into religious illiteracy'

New bishop warns of moral vacuum threatening cities

CHRIS HARRIS

Strong family man: the new bishop with wife Caroline and their children

By Russell Jenkins

ACTION is needed to stop Britain's rapid decline into a religiously illiterate society, the new Bishop of London said yesterday. In his enthronement address at St Paul's Cathedral, the Right Rev Richard Chartres said there was an urgent need for the Church to communicate its mission and to challenge a "moral vacuum" threatening inner cities.

He called on Anglicans to exploit the potential of modern communications, and to get out and engage in honest dialogue with contemporaries rather than "retreat into any ghetto of piety".

The message was delivered against a background of controversy. Outside the cathedral, activists for Action for Gay and Lesbian Ordination staged a demonstration in protest at the new bishop's refusal to ordain women as priests. Bishop Chartres, 48, a father of four and formerly Area Bishop of Stepney, replaces Dr David Hope, who was enthroned as Archbishop of York in December. He is the 132nd Bishop of London — the Church's third most senior job — and a traditionalist and strong family man who has warned of the threat of moral barbarism in cities.

From the pulpit, Bishop Chartres said he agreed with Dr Nicholas Tate, the Government's chief curriculum adviser, who recently expressed concern about moral relativism and the need for young people to receive stronger guidance. "I believe he is right when he suggests that Britain is fast becoming a religiously illiterate society and that in some places we are threatened by a moral vacuum."

It was the Church's job to communicate life, he said. "The Church should be true communication. She should not just engage in the business of getting our message across. The Christian Gospel is not just another ideology or problem-solving package, it is a communication of the life of God through Jesus Christ.

"The Church of England has the responsibility of equipping itself to communicate in the public realm and to recognise the potential for good in new media of communication.

"True communication with our neighbours involves following Jesus as we see him in dialogue with a great variety of surprising people in the Gospels."

There should be more religious education in schools, he said, but churches ought to have clear educational strategies for every age group.

The new bishop echoed calls for the millennium celebrations to be given a greater spiritual dimension, saying it was up to the Church to "remind people whose millennium it will be".

An estimated 2,500 people attended the service, conducted by the Dean of St Paul's, The Very Rev Eric Evans. The Venerable Michael Till, the Archdeacon of Canterbury, officially installed Bishop Chartres into the Episcopal Throne. Cardinal Basil Hume represented the Roman Catholic Church at the service. Also taking part were Archbishop Gregorios of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateria and Great Britain, The Rev Kathleen Richardson, Moderator of the Free Church, and other ecumenical leaders.

Bishop Chartres has gone on record as saying he will work in partnership with the 70 women priests in his diocese but will not ordain women himself.

He has said there will be no witchhunts against homosexual clergy, although he believes strongly that the church allows for either celibacy or lifelong, faithful marriage.

At your service, Weekend, page 3

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Credo

The truth that lights the way for all creeds

Geoffrey Rowell

AMONG the minor changes in the Book of Common Prayer, when it was reissued in 1662 after the Restoration of Charles II, was the provision of a subtitle for the Feast of the Epiphany: "the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles". That theme contrasted the adoration of the Jewish shepherds at Christmas with the gifts of the Magi representing the homage of the non-Jewish world to the infant Christ. The Feast of Candlemas, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, on February 2, picks up both themes with Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis* hailing the child brought to the temple by Mary and Joseph as "the Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Israel".

Jesus was hailed by Christians as the promised Messiah, the Christ of God. Yet "Messiah" and "Christ" — one a Hebrew word, the other Greek, meaning simply "the anointed one" — are words that belong to the prophetic longing of the Jewish faith, a longing for God's deliverance to be brought about by the coming of God's chosen deliverer.

When the Christian faith spread into the non-Jewish world, Christians were immediately faced with an apologetic task. If Jesus was the revelation of God, then what was his relationship to the philosophy and the religious practices of the non-Jewish world? How was a word like "Christ" to be made sense of to those not nurtured on the Jewish scriptures?

There were those who took a strong, exclusive line. The fierce North African lawyer, Tertullian, asked about the year 200: "What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?" The answer, for him, was nothing. Yet, ironically, his own Christian writings betray the influence of Greek Stoic philosophy upon him. Athens did in fact have something to do with Jerusalem, even if he did not admit it.

About the time of Jesus, the Jewish thinker Philo of Alexandria had tried to build bridges between Judaism and Platonist philosophy, making use of the concept of the *Logos*, the Wisdom or Word of God, the mediator between the Creator and creation. Greek wisdom was not incompatible with God's revelation to Israel. Justin, who was martyred in Rome in the year 165 for his Christian faith, followed Philo and saw Jesus, the Wisdom and Word of God, as the fulfiller of the Greek search for truth as well as of Hebrew prophecy. "Seeds of the word" were to be found in the hearts and minds of all who sought the truth. Other early Christian writers, like Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, were prepared to see Christ as the fulfiller of religious yearning, and to acknowledge the Spirit of God working outside the Church, but stood sternly against Gnostic groups who made Jesus part of elaborate, metaphysical cosmologies. For Irenaeus you might as well substitute the gourds and cucumbers of the market for the esoteric names of Gnostic speculation.

As Christians today seek to hold fast to Jesus Christ as the Word made flesh, they can draw much from those early Christian apologists who found in Christ the fulfilment of all deep spiritual yearning, and all endeavours to set forth eternal truth. The Church of England report, *The Mystery of Salvation*, was right to reaffirm that we deny the truth and goodness which Christ, as Logos, and God by the Spirit, can also inspire in those of other faiths and of none.

The Christ manifested to the Gentiles is the one who "gathers up the scattered fragments of truth and makes of them a perfect mirror".

☐ *The Right Reverend Dr Geoffrey Rowell is Bishop of Basingstoke.*

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Republic Day plea for clean-up in public life

India's corruption 'threat to national security'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA observed Republic Day yesterday in a mood of unprecedented despair.

The chaotic state of politics, the spread of corruption in business and government, and uncertainty about the direction of economic reforms have left the country more divided and troubled than perhaps at any time in 49 years of independence.

President Sharma, in an address on the eve of Republic Day, said corruption, criminalisation of politics, caste discrimination and communal strife threatened national security. In a clear reference to a torrent of corruption scandals shaking the nation, he exhorted "persons holding prominent public offices to be in the forefront in the movement for a cleaner public life".

His appeal — front-page news yesterday — came at a time of national disgust with political leaders who have been slandering each other with abandon in recent weeks after the implication of members of every national party in a bribery scandal. Only the Communists and regional parties have come out clean.

Three Cabinet ministers have resigned and been charged with taking money from a businessman: L.K. Advani, a leader of the opposition, resigned from parliament after denying bribery charges; P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, refuted opposition claims that he accepted hundreds of thousands of pounds in backhanders; many MPs and several leading state government dignitaries are under pressure to resign for alleged corruption.

The decay of the political system is forcing the Supreme Court increasingly to impose its will on the Government. But for the court's sustained pressure, the Central Bureau of Investigation, a tool of the Prime Minister, would never have pursued the corruption charges, since no national party was keen on them. The scandal is based on the diaries of a businessman, S.K. Jain, who kept a list of politicians he supposedly bribed. The CBI said he had told police he gave 35 million rupees (£636,000) to the Prime Minister.

So parlous is the state of government that Biju Patnaik, a senior leader of the left-of-centre Janata Dal, suggested that the army should take over the running of the country.

The President's attack on communalism, the euphemism for Hindu-Muslim conflict, came two days after the pro-Hindu state government in Maharashtra announced it was winding up a three-year investigation into anti-Muslim riots that killed hundreds in December 1992 and January 1993 in Bombay, the state capital. This has disgusted Muslim leaders and further emphasised the religious divide. The inquiry was about to expose the role of Shiv Sena, an extremist party that has since come to power in Bombay, in the killings.

The economic reforms are mostly on hold because they are unpopular at the grassroots, but they will be resumed whoever comes to power after the general election, expected in March or April. The increasing rich-poor divide worries many Indians who see it as a recipe for social unrest.

Nobody in the upper reaches of Government can be confident that the "trickle-down" theory of wealth can work when hundreds of millions play no part in the economy. Most wealth in India is held by the 3 per cent of the people who speak English and who do well from the reforms. New outward signs of mega-wealth are superficial signs of prosperity. Even sustained economic growth of 7 per cent would take years to make an impact at the grass roots.

Photograph, page 24

Ramadan prayers drew over 160,000 Muslims to al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem yesterday

Self-rule Muslims barred at Ramadan

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ISRAEL banned Palestinians from the Gaza Strip self-rule enclave from entering Jerusalem hours before the first Friday prayers of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan yesterday. Entry for people living in the West Bank was restricted.

Police had been reinforced because of fears that there could be unrest after the prayers at Islam's third holiest shrine, the al-Aqsa mosque, Israel's army radio said.

The move is bound to anger the Palestinian National Authority administering the self-rule areas.

At the same time, an end to blanket conscription of Israelis into the army was sought by the outgoing general in charge of personnel, who told Israel Radio the country had thousands of unnecessary soldiers. Brigadier General Israel Einhorn, who has completed 25 years of service, said about 20 per cent of conscripted soldiers no longer completed the three years of mandatory service.

Venezuela's former Miss Universe seeks presidency

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN CARACAS

IRENE SÁEZ is beautiful and rich — and hoping to use the charm and fluttering eyelashes that won her the Miss Universe crown in 1981 to become the next President of Venezuela.

The 34-year-old, 6ft former beauty queen could be playing a part in one of her country's feisty soap operas. But her story is real.

Four years ago she left the catwalk to campaign to become mayor of the leafy, middle-class district of Chacao in the capital Caracas, home to two million people. To the surprise of many she won, and carved herself a niche in Venezuela's macho-style politics.

As mayor, Señorita Sáez has cut notorious crime rates and cleaned up streets in her district, now the envy of other areas in the capital where dilapidated tower blocks and shanty towns dominate.

Two weeks ago she ran again and won another mayoral term with a majority of 96 per cent. An independent, she emphasises her distance from old-style parties and, after two victories, plans to run in presidential elections, scheduled to take place in two years' time.

Sáez: rich, beautiful and with brains, too

"People need me and if that means that I have to take my political career further, then I am ready for it," she said in her mayoral office, its walls covered in photographs and paintings of herself.

The youngest of six children, Señorita Sáez was born into a well-off middle-class family and, apart from entering beauty contests, she has a political science degree.

Opinion polls put her 15 percentage points ahead of the septogenerian President Caldera, blamed for the country's economic crisis and volatile political situation.

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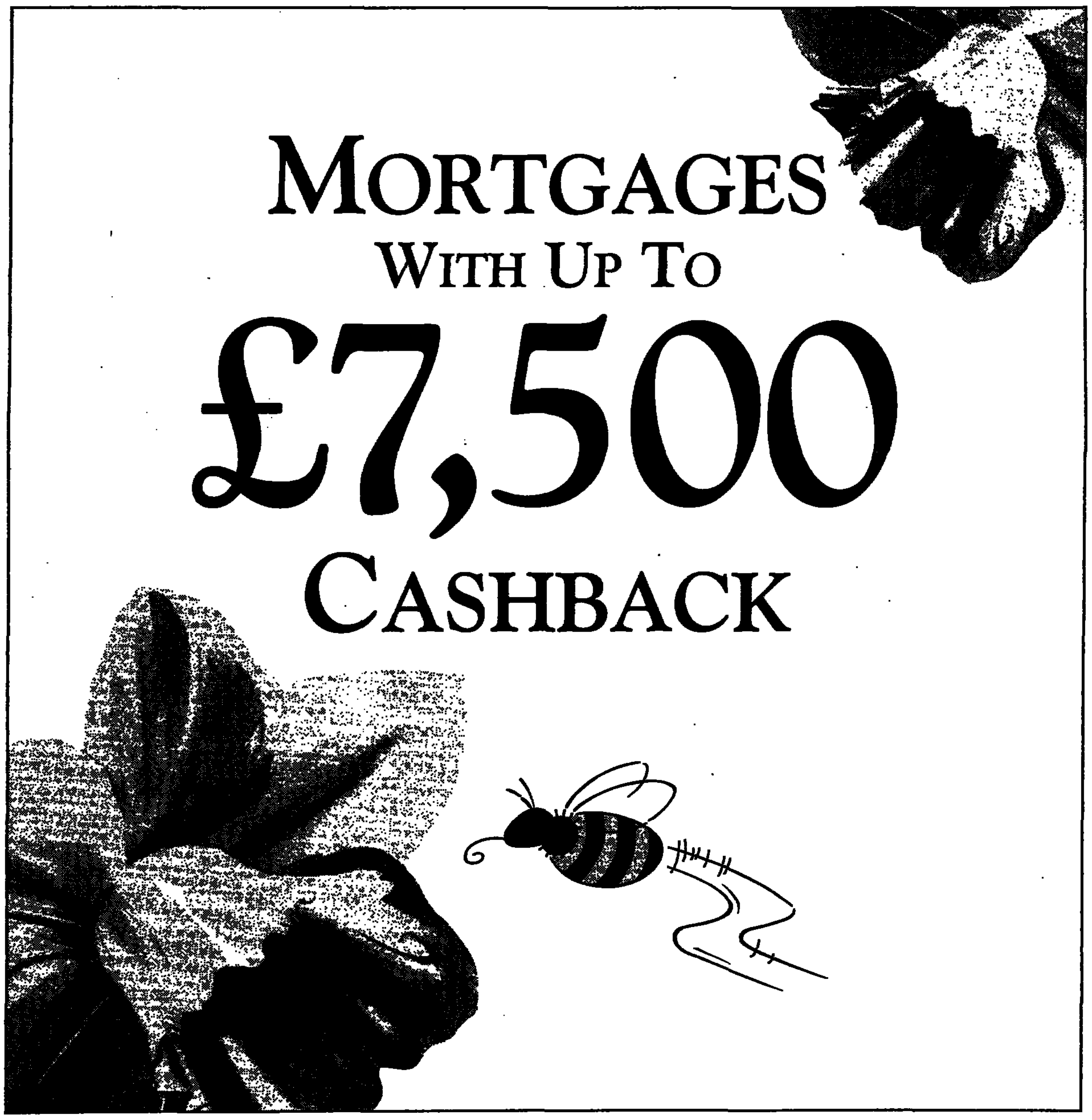

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Farrakhan given $1bn war chest by Gaddafi

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

TWO of Washington's most stalwart enemies appeared yesterday to have fashioned an unholy alliance to influence American elections and foreign policy as part of a pledge to spend $1 billion (£666 million) on "Muslim causes" in the United States.

After a meeting in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, between Louis Farrakhan, the highly controversial black leader of the Nation of Islam, and Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, there was said to be strong consensus on funding an effort to unify Muslim groups in America.

"Our confrontation with America was like a fight against a fortress from outside, and today we found a breach to enter into this fortress and confront it," Colonel Gaddafi said in a statement issued by Jana, the official Libyan news agency. He also called for the creation in America of a separate black state with its own army manned by black soldiers from the US armed forces.

Mr Farrakhan, who has gained prominence among black Americans after organising a "Million Man March" on Washington last year to promote black separatism, made no response yesterday. Calls to his Chicago headquarters were unanswered.

But he was quoted by Jana as being "happy" with the results of his meeting "to unify Arabs, Muslims, blacks and persecuted groups in America to play a strong role not only in the American elections but also in US foreign policy".

Libyan sponsorship of international terrorism, including the funding of IRA factions and the failure to deliver for trial in the West two Libyans suspected in the 1988 Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people, has left the country under stiff United Nations sanctions since 1992.

Last year Colonel Gaddafi challenged the UN ban on flights by organising aircraft to take his followers on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, and he has long been a champion of those he claims are oppressed.

It was not the first time he had met Mr Farrakhan, a man who has not merely called for black separatism but also has described Jews as "bloodsuckers", Judaism as "a gutter religion", and the Holocaust as nothing compared to the slavery of blacks.

Their relationship goes back to 1985, when Colonel Gaddafi lent the Nation of Islam $5 million for various business projects. In the same year, he told members of the radical organisation via satellite that he wanted to help black Americans in an armed struggle to overthrow oppression. Mr Farrakhan is said to have thanked the Libyan politely but rejected his offer of arms.

This week's meeting was seen as the conclusion of Colonel Gaddafi's appeal last year to organise ten million Muslims in America when he said he would spend up to $1 billion to set up such a lobby.

The Libyan leader, however, is known to exaggerate and in the past has made what can only be described as hallucinatory statements, such as the proposal that his son marry President Clinton's daughter Chelsea to improve relations between Libya and America.

Farrakhan: money to fund Muslim causes

Execution fails to draw jail protesters

From Giles Whittell
in Bluffdale, Utah

AFTER a life defined by misery, John Albert Taylor failed even in his final hope of embarrassing Utah state with his death by firing squad.

Floodlights were set up for protesters on a hill above Bluffdale's snowbound execution chamber, but none came. The head of Utah's prisons noted with satisfaction that five hunting rifles had proved quicker and no less sanitary than a lethal injection. A journalist who saw the convicted child killer's chest slam back into his chair called it "an honest way to die".

After a day of bleak and sometimes moving ritual inside the death-watch cell, and intense security outside it, Taylor was collected at 11.45pm on Thursday by 11 guards. Asked by the warden if he had any last words, Taylor, strapped to the chair, said quietly but firmly: "I'd just like to say for my family and friends, as the poem was written, 'remember me, but let me go'. That's it." The shots were fired 45 seconds later.

"All I heard was the last number in the countdown, number three." Craig Wall, a visibly distressed television reporter, said. "Then a very loud boom. I saw his chest heave up, his left hand tighten, relax and tighten again. The cloth target on his chest just seemed to disappear. It left me feeling kind of numb."

The mother of Charla King, 11, whom he was convicted of murdering in 1989, did not attend.

After a standard prison lunch Taylor telephoned an ex-girlfriend and was visited by two family members. Complaining that his stomach was "doing flip-flops", he was given medication before a special late afternoon meal of pizza and Coca-Cola. He wrote a will, prayed, sang hymns, "discussed the after-life", and wept.

Taylor, who was abused by his stepfather, pleaded innocent to Charla's murder. Branded a "remorseless paedophile", he never confessed, although his relatives did not contest his guilt. Among his visitors was a sister, Laura, who gave evidence that he had raped her.

Faith in the future: Deshung Rinpoche IV, also known as His Holiness Nawang Kunga Tegchen Chokyi Nyima, with his mother, Carolyn Lama, at their Seattle home. The four-year-old, who is believed to be the reincarnation of a revered Buddhist lama, will be travelling to Tibet for ten years of training as a spiritual leader

Rise of Forbes rattles Dole camp

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

THE aura of inevitability that surrounded Robert Dole's bid for the Republican presidential nomination is vanishing fast.

A batch of new polls in key states shows an alarming slip in his support while that of his closest rival, the multimillionaire publisher Steve Forbes continues steadily to rise. Those trends are likely to have been accelerated by Mr Dole's dismal response to President Clinton's State of the Union address, which convinced many Republicans Mr Clinton would defeat the 72-year-old Senate leader in November. The latest poll in Iowa, which holds the nation's first seriously contested caucuses in just over two weeks, gave Mr Dole 26 per cent, Mr Forbes 18 and Phil Gramm, Pat Buchanan and Lamar Alexander seven each.

Mr Dole and Mr Gramm have vastly superior organisations to Mr Forbes's in Iowa, meaning their supporters are much more likely to turn out on the night. The figures nonetheless chilled the Dole camp, which knows that if their man wins less than the 38 per cent he secured against Vice-President Bush in the 1988 caucuses, he will be an extremely weak and vulnerable frontrunner.

Polls in New Hampshire, which holds the first primary one week later, are just as unnerving. One gave Mr Dole 30 per cent, Mr Forbes 20 and Mr Buchanan and Mr Gramm ten each. A second gave Mr Dole 36 per cent, Mr Forbes 20, Mr Buchanan 12 and Mr Alexander ten.

Mr Dole had hoped to score such resounding victories in Iowa and New Hampshire that the nomination battle would be over before it had really begun, but that optimism has evaporated. Though he is campaigning virtually fulltime, he sounds a little rattled.

His presidential rivals naturally seized on his wretched performance to challenge his strongest claim to the nomination — that he is the candidate best equipped to defeat Mr Clinton. But the criticism extended far beyond his rivals.

Even Rush Limbaugh, the radio talk show host and arbiter of conservative opinion, joined the attack, fretting that Mr Clinton would be re-elected "if this is the best we can do".

FBI seizes drawings stolen in 1967

From Quentin Letts
in New York

STOLEN works of art by Henry Moore and Pablo Picasso has been recovered in California, 28 years after they were taken from the University of Michigan.

The two pen-and-ink drawings, each worth an estimated $100,000 (£66,500), were taken for evaluation to a San Francisco auctioneer by a woman who appears to have had no connection with their theft.

The San Francisco firm made contact with the Henry Moore Foundation in Hertfordshire to confirm the authenticity and determine the value of the Moore, a 1929 sketch entitled *Seated Figure*. The foundation checked its records, discovered that the drawing had been stolen in Michigan in 1967 and then discreetly alerted its former owner.

The university made contact with the FBI in California, which seized the drawings and questioned the woman.

"At the moment, no charges have been made, as there is no reason to believe that she knew the drawings were stolen," Greg Stejskal, an FBI agent said. "It would not normally be a smart move to take art to an auction house for evaluation when you knew it had been stolen." Nor, Mr Stejskal said, could the original thief be prosecuted because it was now too late under the statute of limitations. People who handled the stolen works of art more recently could be charged.

The Picasso drawing is a 1919 work entitled *Sketched from a Window*. Both drawings are in good condition and will be returned to the University of Michigan when the investigation is over.

Quarterback tackled by politically correct lobby

By Quentin Letts

POLITICAL correctness has reached that toughest of arenas, American football. A white player in tomorrow's Superbowl has been accused of racism because of the language he uses when exhorting his black team mates.

Troy Aikman, quarterback for the mighty Dallas Cowboys, allegedly singled out black colleagues for his bluest epithets. The quarterback is a pivotal man on the American football field, and customarily shouts instructions to the various attack players.

According to an anonymous complaint, Mr Aikman was unduly aggressive when addressing black players. Television footage showed him angrily slamming the ball down at the feet of a black player after an unsuccessful manoeuvre. The matter was reported to the Cowboys' coach, Barry Switzer, who already had a strained relationship with his star quarterback. The two are now barely talking.

The controversy dominated the Cowboys' preparations in Arizona for Superbowl 30 tomorrow, when they will take on the little-fancied Pittsburgh Steelers. Mr Aikman was swamped by reporters and asked if he was a racist. "I have no problem with my relationships with anyone on this team," he said of the Cowboys, but added that there was "some legitimacy" to accounts of what had occurred. Black teammates of Mr Aikman came to his defence yesterday.

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'After Hong Kong there is Macau and Taiwan in Long March to reunification'

Jiang picks tycoon to take over from Patten

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND JAMES PRINGLE

PRESIDENT JIANG ZEMIN yesterday welcomed the establishment of a Chinese-appointed committee that will reimpose Chinese rule over Hong Kong next year, when British authority ends, and said it was a first station on what he called China's Long March to reunification.

The installation of the 150 members of the Preparatory Committee — none of them members of Hong Kong's biggest political grouping, the Democratic Party — at a ceremony in Peking was being watched with apprehension in the British territory.

Speaking in the Great Hall of the People to the delegates assembled for the formal founding of the committee, to be led by Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, Mr Jiang implied the way Hong Kong is handled could affect the issue of the return of Macau and Taiwan to China. Diplomats said this provides some safeguards for Hong Kong residents, given Peking's concerns about reuniting Taiwan with the mainland. The committee — which includes an eclectic mix of academics, lawyers and business tycoons from the territory and uniformed Chinese army generals, officials and Communist Party cadres — will be in charge of setting up a new legislature and government, and thus dismantling the arrangements introduced by Britain, particularly the widening of the franchise under the electoral reforms introduced by Chris Patten, the colony's Governor, which have infuriated Peking.

"In terms of reunification, the return of Hong Kong to the motherland is the first station in our Long March," Mr Jiang said as letters of appointment to each of the 150 members, 94 from Hong Kong and 56 from the mainland, were handed out. "After that, there is Macau and finally Taiwan."

After the ceremony, Mr Jiang pointedly walked down a line of committee members to shake hands with Tung Chee-hua, a shipping magnate whose name has been mentioned as a possible first Chief Executive who will take Mr Patten's place on July 1, 1997. It effectively placed Peking's imprimatur on Mr Tung as China's designate for Hong Kong's Chief Executive.

It was a striking, some might say crude, pre-emption of the Preparatory Committee's only really important responsibility: picking an "election committee" of 400 who some time later this year will choose the Chief Executive, who in turn will select an inner core of senior officials, many of them already serving the present Government, who many say will form, not a shadow government, but long before the handover Hong Kong's actual ruling body.

For a year the names of possible candidates to be Chief Executive have been Hong Kong's favourite political guessing game. The population's overwhelming favourite is Anson Chan, the Chief Executive and Deputy Governor. Ms Chan, a 30-year veteran of the civil service, is the bureaucracy's longed-for selection. But her very abilities and her long service to Britain seemed to rule her out.

But Mr Tung has long been a Peking favourite. A stupendously rich tycoon, with the Shanghai background that would especially appeal to President Jiang, whose "Shanghai clique" forms the leading group in China, Mr Tung is a member of the People's Political Consultative Conference, a group of mainland and overseas Chinese worthies billed as advisers. He is also in Mr Patten's Executive Committee or Cabinet.

"We will have a bright future if we do well with this first station of Hong Kong," the Chinese President and party chief told the delegates, adding that they faced a tough task to complete their work in the less than 17 months remaining before the handover. "You have a long way to go."

China resumes sovereignty over the Portuguese colony of Macau in 1999, but reunification with Taiwan appears distant, with ties between Peking's Communist rulers and the island's Nationalists increasingly bitter over what China sees as an effort by President Lee of Taiwan, facing elections in March, to raise Taiwan's profile and possibly seek independence — which Mr Lee denies.

One role of the Preparatory Committee is to appoint a group of 400 to choose the Chief Executive to run the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region when Britain leaves. The committee has also been empowered by Peking to draw up the first Government that will run Hong Kong after the British flag is lowered at midnight on June 30, 1997.

Qian Qichen, Chinese Foreign Minister, third from left, at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Hong Kong yesterday

European specialists reported to be treating Saddam for cancer

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

INTELLIGENCE experts in the Middle East were attempting yesterday to verify reports that President Saddam Hussein is suffering from lymphatic cancer.

The claim, which appeared first in *Foreign Report*, the London-based, limited-circulation newsletter produced by *The Economist* and known for its links to Western intelligence agencies, was given international prominence when it was published yesterday on the front page of *The Jerusalem Post*.

The paper's well-connected London correspondent, Douglas Davis, said that sources in the Middle East had disclosed to *Foreign Report* that the 58-year-old Iraqi leader was receiving treatment from European cancer specialists who had been summoned to Baghdad where, due to United Nations sanctions, medicines are in short supply.

According to the *Post* account, which caused a sensation in embassies in Israel and the Arab world, Saddam is said to be receiving radiation therapy and steroids which have left him bloated. The *Post* reported: "The cancer is described as a form of Hodgkin's disease, which is not necessarily fatal if detected at an early stage."

Western diplomats reacted cautiously to the story, which one noted could have "far-reaching and potentially explosive" repercussions for the region if it is true. Intelligence analysts said that it was common for senior members of the Baghdad regime to be treated by medical teams from Europe.

"It is impossible at this stage to say for certain whether this report is true or whether it is deliberate disinformation spread by one or more foreign intelligence agencies for their own particular agenda," Ofra Bengio, leading Iraqi expert at Israel's Dayan Centre, said.

Barry Rubin, author of a new book, *Iraq's Road to War*, said: "I read the story with fascination. Because of the source there is a 50 per cent chance it is true and a 50 per cent chance it is disinformation — and at this stage, I cannot say which."

A number of other Arab leaders are suffering from serious health problems that could easily destabilise the region if they should prove fatal. King Husain of Jordan, the leading supporter of the new peace process with Israel, has had a kidney removed after cancer was diagnosed; King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has recently been forced to hand over power because of failing health; and President Assad of Syria is suffering from an unspecified blood disease which diplomats claim is leukaemia.

"The report on Saddam's alleged cancer is detailed enough to lend it some veracity, but such is the secrecy that surrounds his life in Baghdad and the lack of access to him, that we are not likely to find out definitely one way or another," a European diplomat said. "The trouble with checking its veracity is that there is a lot of wishful thinking, so many people would like it to be true."

WORLD SUMMARY

Colombia ministers resign

The future of President Samper of Colombia's is in doubt after the resignation yesterday of two Cabinet Ministers, who said they lacked confidence in a President tainted by "links with the drugs cartels" (Gabriella Gamini writes).

The President is accused of accepting more than £4 million from the Cali cartel to help his 1994 election campaign, and is coming under increasing pressure to resign. Juan Gomez, the Minister of Transport, and Luis Ramos, Commerce Minister, made their announcements after key ambassadors quit.

Chrétien shuffles his Cabinet

Ottawa: Jean Chrétien, Canada's Prime Minister, shuffled his Cabinet and brought in two federalist Quebec academics to boost the cause of federalism in the province (Richard Cleroux writes). Stéphane Dion, a Montreal university professor, becomes president of the Privy Council and Minister responsible for Inter-Governmental Affairs. Pierre Pettigrew, an expert on foreign affairs, becomes Minister for International Cooperation.

Early snowfalls kill Tibetans

Peking: Heavy snowfalls have killed 13 people and 51,000 head of livestock in a high mountain valley inhabited mainly by Tibetans. More than 3ft of snow has fallen in Shiqu county since the storms began in mid-December, a month earlier than usual. Persistent sub-zero temperatures have caused 11,000 residents to suffer frostbite. *(AP)*

Spaced out

Montpellier: Police and psychiatrists were helping a man who sought their aid in tracing his lost vehicle — a spaceship on which he claimed to have landed 350 years ago. He said he needed to return to his planet as he left his guitar there. *(AFP)*

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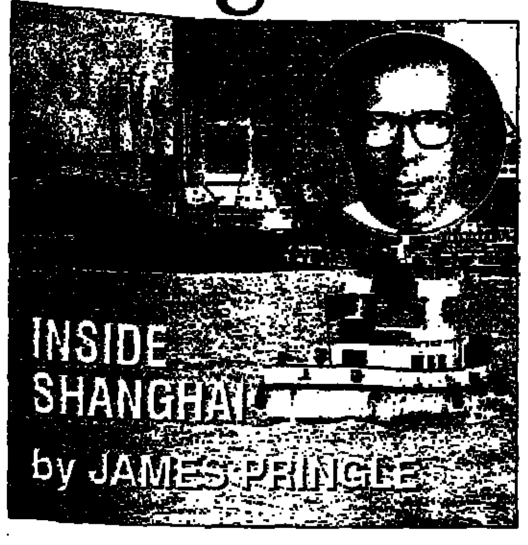
Dragon's head gets a taste for raw capitalism



Shanghai may be booming, but behind the city's prosperity lie the Communist Party's iron grip and doubts about the future intentions of Peking

ONCE it was the Paris of the Orient, but for decades after the Chinese Communists came to power in 1949 Shanghai either languished or became a bastion of leftism.

Now, at last, the city seems to have taken off again with a vengeance. Gleaming new hotels are stuffed with foreign businessmen, bankers and property dealers hoping to cash in on the bonanza.

Shanghai's famed entrepreneurial spirit appears to have been set free. More than half a million play the stock market, housed in the 1860 Astor Hotel's ballroom, where visages of China's current Communist leaders stare down from the walls on a scene of raw capitalism.

In the past three years, since the paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, belatedly opened the floodgates by giving the go-ahead for this huge entrepôt port near the mouth of the Yangtze river to "get rich" like the coastal cities of south China, a frenzy of activity has included construction of bridges, tunnels, flyovers, ring-roads and hotels.

"The Yangtze is like a dragon crossing China with Shanghai as the dragon head," says Zhang Sanfu, boss of Yachua Pilkington Glass, a Sino-British venture in Pudong. "Already we are catching up and I believe that in the next century Shanghai will become the most important city in China."

Pudong (East River) is a 200-square-mile complex of industrial parks, giant department stores and housing developments rising on the mudflats across the Whangpoo river from the Bund, Asia's best-known waterfront with its former foreign banks and trading houses.

On the rare day when the winter smog that wreathes the city lifts, the view from the top of the futuristic 1,544ft Oriental Pearl tower, dominating the Bund from the Pudong side of the Whangpoo, is of hundreds of building sites topped by cranes where tens of thousands of transient labourers work beside pounding piledrivers.

"You really have the sense that Shanghai has taken off and will once again become an international centre of trade and finance," says Dr Terry Ginty, of Manchester, who has been overseeing the Pilkington venture since the early Eighties.

This vibrant Shanghai is a far cry from the sad, grim city of two decades ago during the Cultural Revolution. Then children were taught to hate flowers and told to grow herbs. Even in the late Eighties, investment-starved Shanghai had a lacklustre feel. Yet beneath today's glittering surface of glamorous boutiques, throbbing discos and simpering "girls who sell a smile" and proposition foreigners, the Communist Party retains a tight grip on power, even more so than in Peking. Envoys wonder how the city can become such an economic powerhouse when the free flow of ideas is curbed.

Analysts also point out that its fate rests with the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, a former Shanghai Mayor, and a coterie of local protégés who now dominate the national leadership in Peking and closely direct developments back in their power base. A change in China's leadership could mean a shift of fortune for Shanghai, some foreign investors fear.

Shanghai and its current 13.5 million population, after all, has a turbulent political past — sometimes too capitalist, sometimes too leftist. The Communist Party was founded here in 1921 despite the Western influences of the foreign treaty port era. During the Cultural Revolution the city was the radical Gang of Four's HQ.

The Mao caps and tattered suits of the three million Mingong, or rural transient workers, contrast today with the designer clothes of the elite — an income gap that might fuel envy and unrest.

It is these labourers who allegedly contribute to the social problems which, as in prewar days, include the abandoning of unwanted children. Some of those end up in the city's orphanage, the centre of charges that it let children die to keep numbers within its budget.

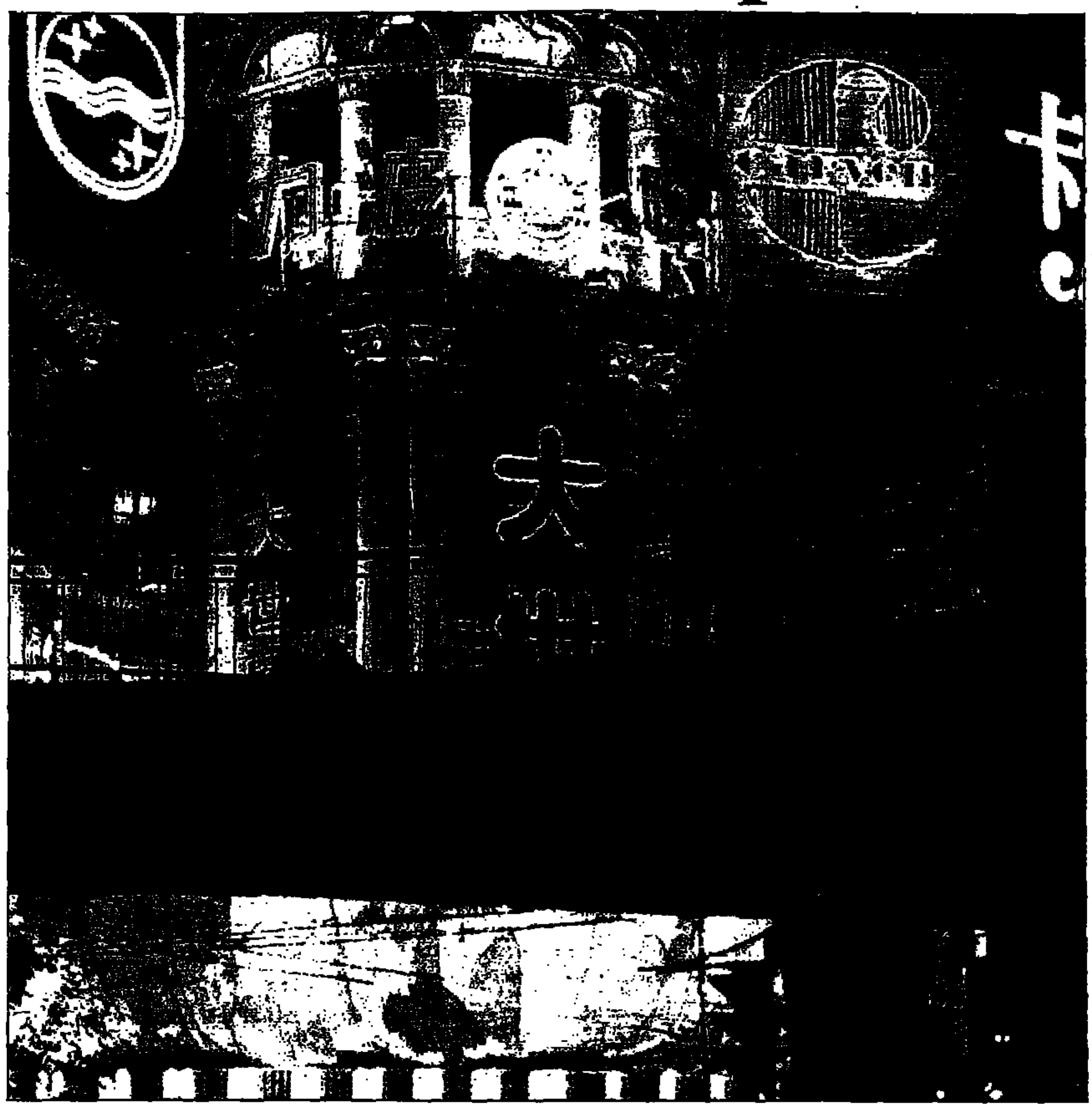
The dissident movement, envoys say, has been crushed in Shanghai, more so even than in Peking, with former activists in labour camps, in exile, or having simply given up the struggle for rights. "There is a huge stress on social stability," noted one diplomat. "The party is afraid of losing its grip on the population at a time of economic change. But, at the moment, Shanghai fulfils the ultimate Dengish dream — economic prosperity with total party control."

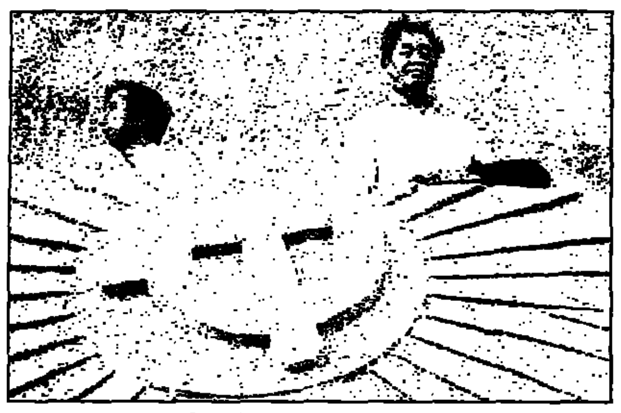
Though waitresses in cowgirl outfits serve table at one hotel restaurant, and black leather ultra-short mini-skirts were in vogue last summer, there are disconcerting reminders of recent Communist history, such as the disastrous 1958-1959 Great Leap Forward. To build the ring-road, for instance, 50,000 workers were mobilised, some arbitrarily ordered away from foreign joint ventures. But few these days seem to think of the dissidents; they are too busy spending money in the shops of imported goods that line the city's two famous shopping streets — Nanking Road and Huaihai Road. But the frenzy has slowed down from an initial free-spending period 18 months ago.

Though there is Bally and Printemps, Louis Vuitton and three Italian restaurants, surprisingly, given its past, Shanghai does not yet have the feel of a cosmopolitan city.

At this stage, Shanghai could still go either way, many analysts feel. "Shanghainese know where they are going because they have been there before," said one enthusiastic recent foreign arrival involved with business. "They have a sense of what Shanghai is and what it can be."

That is true, but there is another side to the picture. "Things are flying along now, but Shanghai has known violent swings," said a longer-serving resident foreign trade official. "You never know when the political wind might change again."


Vibrant Shanghai has taken off with a vengeance after years of neglect, revelling in its new freedom


A symbol of leftist faith on the Bund, where former foreign banks proclaim the city's capitalist links

Chinese vessels trigger gun battle

FROM ABBY TAN
IN MANILA

GUNBOATS of the Philippine Navy exchanged gunfire with one of two vessels flying the Chinese flag off Subic free port. There were a number of casualties on the Chinese side, said the navy, which suspects they were smugglers.

It said yesterday that the two vessels sailed into Philippine waters, 12 miles off Subic, northwest of the capital, Manila, this week. A naval craft fired warning shots and a 90-minute gun battle ensued at night. One of the Chinese ships tried to ram the naval craft but failed when it came under heavy machinegun fire from the gunboat. The two vessels then escaped.

The navy said it believed that one of the Chinese vessels was "hit and incurred casualties". The gunboat was unable to pursue the vessels because its guns had jammed and it was out of fuel. None of the naval crew suffered injuries.

In a separate statement yesterday, the navy described the intruders as suspected smugglers. Chinese ships do call at Subic free port to load cargoes of duty-free cigarettes and liquor for the mainland China market.

A spokesman for the Armed Forces of the Philippines said President Ramos had been informed of the clash, which occurred on Monday. The presidential palace has yet to respond to media inquiries.

This week's clash is the first violent incident between the two countries. Last May, Chinese vessels prevented a Philippine Navy craft carrying journalists from entering the disputed Spratlys in the South China Sea, where the Chinese Navy had secretly occupied Mischief Reef, also claimed by the Philippines.

Earlier this week, Baroness Thatcher told a business forum in Manila that China would be a more formidable military power in the near future, given the pace of its economic growth. It was prepared to use implied threats to extend its power, she added.

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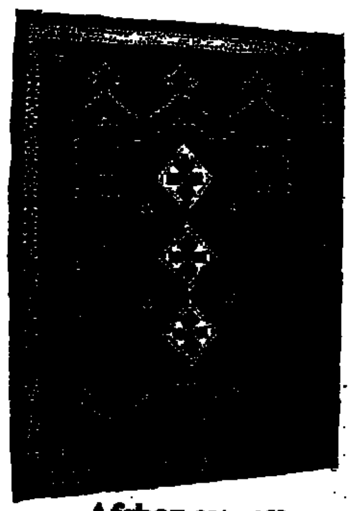
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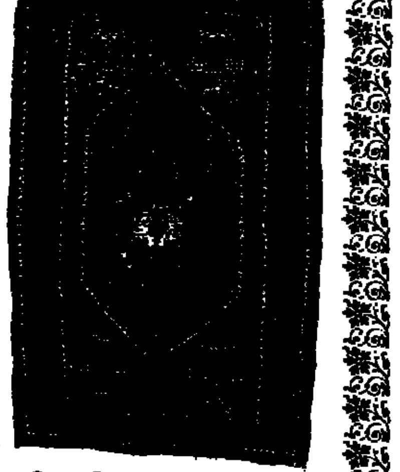
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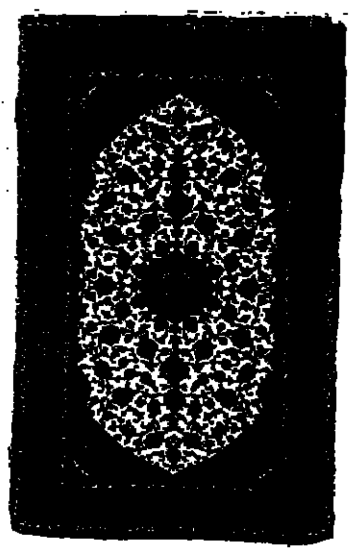
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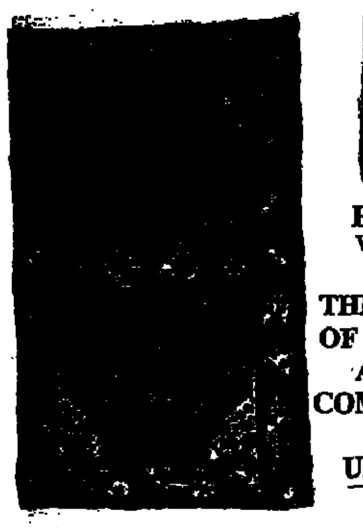
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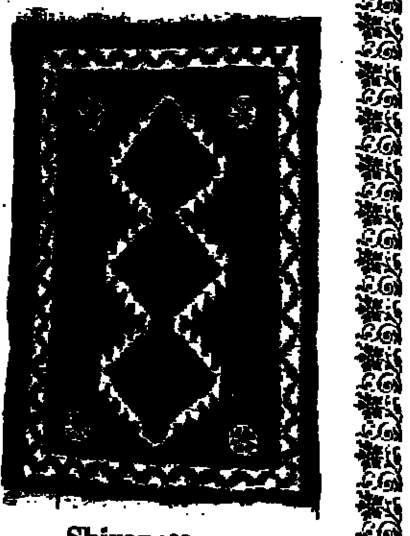
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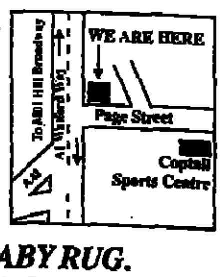

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Juppé struggles to preserve unity on EMU targets

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S bitter debate over European monetary union intensified yesterday when Philippe Séguin, Speaker of the National Assembly, called for renewed discussion on all aspects of Europe's future — and insisted that postponing a single currency would not be a disaster.

M Séguin is the latest senior French politician to voice doubts over the country's ability to meet criteria for monetary union laid down by the Maastricht treaty. The Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, has said there will be no change in the Maastricht timetable: it requires countries cut their deficits to less than 3 per cent of GDP by 1997, but even Cabinet members have questioned whether France can meet the deadline.

"Is it not time to put everything back on the table?" M Séguin said in a speech to a Franco-German conference on EMU in Aachen yesterday.

"Neither the eventual delay of the date for introducing a single currency, nor an eventual revision of the [Maastricht] criteria would have the disastrous effect that everyone fears today," he said, adding the EU inter-governmental conference in March should be the forum for reopening discussion on Europe's future.

M Séguin, who led the campaign against Maastricht during the 1992 French referendum, is widely tipped to become the next Prime Minister, should M Juppé be ousted.

The Government struggled to maintain unity in its ranks yesterday after senior Cabinet Ministers joined the chorus of French business leaders, financial analysts and politicians of various shades who fear France will be unable to meet the Maastricht criteria.

Jacques Toubon, the Justice Minister, said yesterday that the Government would achieve monetary union within the established timetable "because France's destiny is at stake".

"A great country like France does not change. When it signs treaties, it applies them," he said. "Our competitors would be delighted if there was no single currency."

The latest wave of scepticism, which pushed down the franc in early trading yesterday, was prompted by former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's suggestion last week that the Maastricht timetable should be interpreted with "flexibility" in the light of France's economic slowdown.

Hervé de Charette, the Foreign Minister, said that proposal "deserved to be looked into", while Franck Borotra, the Industry Minister, declared that if it came to a choice between Maastricht and employment, he "would choose employment".

But M Juppé bluntly declared the monetary union timetable remained sacrosanct. "Not only have we not discussed it, but we will not discuss it. The path has been set," he said.

A chastened M de Charette later issued a statement confirming his unconditional support for the timetable.

President Chirac, currently touring the provinces to try to boost his flagging popularity, insisted there was no contradiction between creating jobs and meeting the strict currency union targets.

Despite the Government's unified front, many politicians within the ruling coalition privately admit a revision of those targets, by delaying the deadline or making the requirements less strict, is almost inevitable.

Premier loses pin-up status

Paris: Alain Juppé has learnt the hard way that he is no pin-up (Ben Macintyre writes). Last week officials in Bordeaux, where M Juppé is also Mayor, began hanging his portrait in schools, provoking an angry response from teachers who say they do not want the Prime Minister staring down at them.

A somewhat embarrassed M Juppé insisted that schools had not been forced to put up the picture. The Mayor's Office said in future "only the establishments that ask will be given an official portrait".

One headmaster said: "At least it makes the children laugh."

Reshuffle by Yeltsin threatens IMF loan

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

NEGOTIATIONS for a $9 billion (£6 billion) Russian loan from the International Monetary Fund were yesterday heading for deadlock after Western financiers threatened to withhold funds from Moscow until it renewed its commitment to economic reform.

The present round of talks was to have been the last before executive board approval at a meeting next month, but the removal from President Yeltsin's inner circle of almost all pro-Western reformers has caused jitters inside the IMF and at the State Department in Washington.

"A number of issues still need to be decided," an IMF official said. "What matters is what is agreed between the mission and the Russian authorities over progress on economic reform."

The Western stand leaves both sides in a difficult position. President Yeltsin, if he sticks to a tight fiscal policy, risks a popular backlash that may damage his chances of re-election in the summer.

For its part, Washington is unsure how much pressure should be applied to Mr Yeltsin, whose defeat in elections would almost certainly open the door to Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader.

Although there is growing disillusionment with Mr Yeltsin and his policies, he is still seen as the best alternative to the Communists.

American concern has been mounting since Mr Yeltsin effectively dismissed Anatoli Chubais, the Deputy Prime Minister for four years and the architect of reform who supervised a vast privatisation programme.

The decision this week that Mr Chubais would be replaced by Vladimir Kadannikov, an old-style Soviet industrialist, has further fuelled suspicions in Washington that the Yeltsin Government may be close to disgarding a tight monetary policy. Mr Yeltsin has insisted that turning back on reforms would be "the ruin of Russia", but has called simultaneously for a relaxation in certain policies that have left millions of state employees without pay for months.

Aside from removing the reformers from the Government and freezing the privatisation process, Mr Yeltsin has also pledged to embark on an extravagant spending spree, including more money for pensioners and students and the payment of back wages to disgruntled workers.

Last night, Mr Yeltsin asked Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister, to pay 600 billion roubles (£85 million) in wage arrears to miners by the end of this month. The miners had called for a nationwide strike in protest at non-payment.

Militant miners burn banners in Moscow yesterday in protest at pay arrears

Durrell's 'rogue' Cypriot is shot

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

SABRI TAHIR, a Turkish Cypriot businessman immortalised in Lawrence Durrell's *Bitter Lemons*, was critically ill in hospital last night after he was shot by a man who had offered to be his bodyguard.

When Mr Tahir, 72, said he did not need such protection, the young man pulled out a pistol and fired four bullets into his leg before escaping in a rented car, according to local press reports.

Thursday's shooting took place in the Orient Hotel, a rather seedy establishment owned by Mr Tahir and the place where his only son, Adnan, was stabbed to death in 1980 by an unknown assailant.

There was speculation among the tightly-knit Turkish Cypriot community that Mr Tahir's attacker was from the Turkish mafia, which is involved in prostitution in northern Cyprus. It was not the first time Mr Tahir has been targeted: five years ago he survived a car bomb attack.

Durrell portrayed him as a lovable "rogue" in *Bitter Lemons*, an account of his stay in Cyprus during the turbulent 1950s. A whole chapter is devoted to his masterful negotiating skills as an estate agent when he helped the author to buy a house.

It was not only Mr Tahir's stylish business acumen that endeared him to the novelist. "Sabri was a gallant man," Durrell wrote. "I once saw him dive fully clothed into Kyrenia harbour to rescue a Greek fisherman's child in difficulties."

Durrell: devoted a chapter to Tahir

Russian savers live in fear for their fistful of dollars

Pickering: launched information campaign

BY RICHARD BEESTON

TWO hundred years after the death of Benjamin Franklin, the American statesman's portrait is at the centre of a crisis of confidence that threatens to affect the lives of Russians from the Baltics to the Pacific.

As Washington prepares to launch its new $100 bill, which features a *harder-to-counterfeit* engraving of the American Founding Father, the banknote's arrival is being anticipated with fear and loathing by millions of Russian savers. Russia holds the largest amount of US cash outside America, estimated at up to $20 billion (£13 billion), more than three-quarters of it in $100 banknotes.

To allay the public's concerns and avoid panic, the US Treasury took the unprecedented step this month of opening a hotline in Moscow to explain to anxious dollar-holders *that their old $100 bills would always* be honoured by the US Government. Thomas Pickering, the US Ambassador, said at a recent press conference to launch the information campaign: "All old US notes issued since 1861 are still valid at their full face value."

However, it is easy to sympathise with those Russians who still harbour doubts about the assurances and fear that their life-savings, usually held in $100 banknotes hidden beneath their mattresses, will overnight be rendered worthless.

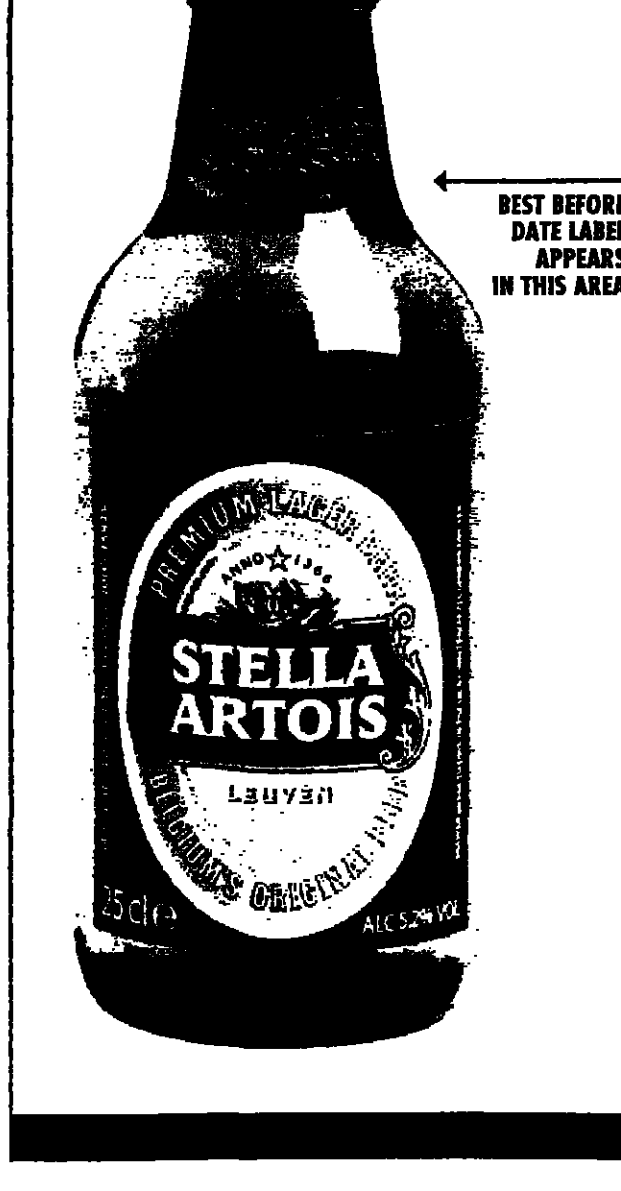
The Russian suspicions over the effects of currency changes are rooted in their own costly experiences: the introduction of new rouble notes have often led to huge losses. In 1991, when Mikhail Gorbachev's Government introduced new 50 and 100 rouble bills, and again in 1993, this time under President Yeltsin, millions of Russians lost their savings when they failed to meet the deadlines set by the Government to exchange their old notes for new.

"People are ignorant and they *have been cheated so many times* by their own Government that they instantly panic when new notes are issued," Vladimir Morozov, a currency dealer in Moscow, said. The atmosphere of uncertainty has not been helped by the announcement by the eight leading banks in Moscow that they will charge a 2 per cent commission for exchanging old $100 bills.

The banks argue that they are simply covering their costs, but Aleksandr Auzan, the president of *the International Confederation of* Consumers' Union, estimates the Russian banks could make an easy $40 million profit from the swap.

PRODUCT RECALL

STELLA ARTOIS BOTTLES
(25cl bottle size, sold in packs of 24 only)



BEST BEFORE DATE LABEL APPEARS IN THIS AREA

Stella Artois regret to announce that small fragments of glass have been found in a small number of 25cl bottles of Stella Artois beer. These bottles can only be bought as part of a pack of 24 from supermarkets, off licences and wholesalers in the UK. The affected bottles have all been withdrawn from public sale and production stopped.

The affected green bottles are all 25cl, in a 24 pack, with a green label and a best before date from April 1996 up to and including September 1996. These bottles should not be opened and the beer should not be consumed.

The public are advised to return any affected bottles to the point of purchase for a refund.

All other Stella Artois products and packaging are unaffected. The *unaffected* products are Stella Artois 25cl sold in a 10 pack format. 25cl brown bottle packs. 25cl bottles with white labels. Stella 33cl bottles, Stella 330ml, 440ml and 500ml cans and Stella Dry 275ml bottles.

We are sorry to inconvenience you in this way. Even though there is only a slight risk to consumers, we think it is in everyone's interest that the bottles are withdrawn from stock.

For further information please call 0345 656065.

25cl Stella Artois will be back on sale within the next seven days. The new 24 packs will be clearly labelled "New Production".

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[illegible]

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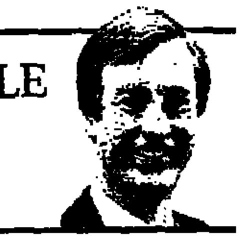
DIRECT 60 Account

Socialist leader makes gastronomic garrison on Rhine a mecca for lawyers, politicians and tourists

Leading lady's city triumph

STRASBOURG FILE
by MICHAEL BINYON



SLEEK, prosperous, cosmopolitan, the ancient city of Strasbourg owes its future prosperity largely to two British cities: Edinburgh and York.

For it was in the Scottish capital in 1992 that a European summit took the long-awaited decision that meant life or death for Strasbourg: confirmation of the Alsatian border city as the sole and permanent site of the European Parliament's plenary sessions.

And it was from York that Strasbourg obtained the low-slung futuristic glass-and-steel carriages for the system that has transformed life in Strasbourg's twisting, overhung streets and leafy avenues and put the city on the world transport map: its pioneering, modern tramway.

Both, in their separate ways, attract hundreds of thousands of tourists, and the lawyers, parliamentarians and Eurocrats whose monthly pilgrimages here have largely insulated Strasbourg from France's current urban financial woes. Both are seen as crowning achievements of one of the country's most popular and influential women: Catherine Trautmann, Strasbourg's Socialist Mayor, who was, unusually, re-elected for a second term last year with an absolute majority on the first ballot.

Mme Trautmann knows that Strasbourg must now live, think and breathe Europe. The city of Albert Schweitzer, the Rhine garrison town, university seat and medieval market that is as German as it is French and has changed hands four times this century, Strasbourg has made Franco-German reconciliation a cornucopia of prosperity. It was chosen after the Second World War as the site for the Council of Europe, which has swelled to 39 members and under whose aegis the world's most effective guardian of Western humanitarian values functions: the European Court of Human Rights. The Council in turn brought the European Parliament here; all three bring money in abundance.

Europe is now Strasbourg's profession. For one week every month the hotels are overflowing, the taxis scarce, the restaurants full and the shopkeepers smiling. In addition to the political and legal contingent, industrial leaders flock to the city that is, after Paris, France's second largest organiser of international industrial fairs, teach-ins and conventions.

Madame le Maire, a woman with iron convictions, piercing eyes and a force of personality that remind people of a cross between Baroness Thatcher and Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, has made her name in this half-timbered city by a ruthless insistence on efficiency and planning. She has made the most of the withering of old industries by concentrating on investment in service industries, the environment and academic research institutions.

A Protestant theologian by training, she has an almost religious conviction on the need for efficient infrastructure. The tramway was her holy grail.

Sleek, green trams have now been gliding through the streets for just over a year. The single line, linking suburbs and city centre, will by the turn of the century be crossed by another.

Motorists are kept at bay by a combination of ferocious parking restrictions, road blocks reminiscent of the City of London and cheap tickets from park-and-ride centres on the periphery.

The system cost a fortune, but the trams are full. Taxi drivers complain there is less business. Town planners come from miles around to look at the comprehensive system.

Making a meal out of politics

ALMOST every city in France boasts that it is the nation's culinary capital. Strasbourg seems quixotic in this insistent claim, for its famed dishes of choucroute, flammekueche, waedele *and* backeoffe *seem more German than French: mountains of pork and fat more to the taste of Chancellors in Bonn than Presidents in Paris. The boast, however, is not idle. The most famous buildings are restaurants, and politics in Strasbourg is enveloped in accusations of good eating and gourmet lifestyles. La Maison des Tanneurs shows off the photos of Nancy Reagan dining there. Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac sat down to bolster their prickly alliance in Chez Yvonne, a local Weinstube. Indeed, France's most bizarre murder case occurred just outside Strasbourg when Jean Schillinger, the President of the Association of Master Chefs, burnt to death when his restaurant was set alight.*

A. MILLER

Mme Trautmann, the popular and far-sighted Mayor of Strasbourg

Briton has designs on the future

BRITAIN has long been seen as the odd one out in Europe — the naysayer, the scourge of the integrationists and the awkward sceptic who refused to share the visions of the future.

It is ironic, therefore, that Britain, of all countries, has played so large a role in founding and building European institutions. Strasbourg honours Winston Churchill and Ernest Bevin, men whose postwar calls for unity encouraged the other founding fathers.

A British architect is now responsible for the physical addition to the cluster of European institutions in Strasbourg. Sir Richard Rogers designed the new Palace of Human Rights, the building that houses the Court of Human Rights. The initial designs did not please the city — "more like a prison than a court", was the verdict; the revised conception has won more universal acclaim.

The Queen visited the site and planted a tree while the building was under construction in 1992 during her first and only visit to the city. Since its inauguration in June last year, Strasbourg has grown proud of the new palace.

European construction is still in progress, however. Despite a veritable complex of Euro-institutions, a larger, grander and more futuristic building is also going up to house the European Parliament, due for completion in the next year or two. Sceptics might ask if it is needed.

"There really was no choice," Roland Ries, Strasbourg's Deputy Mayor, said. "When Brussels built an assembly chamber for the Parliament, Strasbourg had to show its commitment to the MEPs remaining here."

Bosnian women tell of mass rapes

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN ZENICA, BOSNIA

SHE shut her eyes but the girl could not block out the Bosnian Serb soldiers' laughter as they held her stick-thin wrists and raped her over and over again.

She does not remember how many times, but she remembers their laughs. The soldiers also raped her mother, later shot and killed at their home in Zepa, eastern Bosnia.

The girl, 12, was also shot, but survived and made her way to government-held Zenica in central Bosnia.

"I am sure her life is ruined," said Mirha Pojskic, a psychologist at the Medica centre, which specialises in helping women and children recover from war atrocities.

The girl's story could be one of those retold in court. Since the peace pact, war crimes investigators have stepped up collection of testimony and evidence of allegations of mass rape and the use of sexual assault as a military policy. "This could be the first time in history that women are coming forward right after a war to talk about rape," said Jasna Baksic-Muftic, who is secretary-general of the Sarajevo chapter of the Union of Women's Associations of Bosnia.

The Hague tribunal's opening trial, scheduled for March 18, will mark the first time that rape has been included as a war crime. A woman, identified only as "F" in court documents, is to testify against Dusan Tadic, a Bosnian Serb prison guard accused of murder, rape and torture.

The international tribunal has indicted 52 suspects — seven Bosnian Croats and 45 Bosnian Serbs, including the military commander, General Ratko Mladic, and the political leader, Radovan Karadzic.

Bosnian government officials say as many as 30,000 Muslim women may have been sexually assaulted during the 3½-year war.

Austrians to honour Jews

Vienna: Austria is to erect its first memorial to commemorate the Holocaust. Designed by Rachel Whiteread, a British sculptor, it is to be placed near a synagogue's ruins. *Her sculpture*, entitled "The Nameless Library", will show *shelves of books with their* spines turned inwards. The space inside *is empty to* represent the many readers who could not live on. About 65,000 Jews were killed in Austria by Nazis. *(Reuter)*

Poles split on Oleksy successor

FROM PAT KOZA
IN WARSAW

PRESIDENT Kwasniewski of Poland formally accepted yesterday the resignation of Jozef Oleksy, the left-wing Prime Minister, and his Government but kept it in a caretaker role until a new one is sworn in.

Taking seriously his campaign pledge to be President of the people, the former leader of the Democratic Left Alliance met heads of two opposition parties. They proposed that Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, the former Foreign Minister, be appointed Prime Minister of an all-party government.

Mr Bartoszewski is respected both at home and abroad. But his prospects are virtually nil unless the ruling left-wing coalition, comprising the Democratic Left Alliance and the Peasant Party, fails to agree on a candidate.

"It is a good proposal, but it is not realistic," said Lech Walesa, the former President who ignited the crisis on leaving office last month by making public the charge that Mr Oleksy had spied for Moscow for a decade. "In Poland, we are dealing with small interests, not the common good," he declared.

Mr Oleksy resigned after the military prosecutor this week began inquiries into his alleged KGB links.

Mr Kwasniewski, who met coalition leaders too, also talked to the Labour Union. He has 14 days to propose a candidate to the lower house.

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Our money-saving packages, available between February 1 and March 31, 1996, offer 175 hotels in 12 European countries all carefully selected by EuroDrive, including 139 hotels in France. For example, you and three friends could zip across the Channel to Paris and stay at the luxurious Hôtel George V for just £119 a night each.

Today we publish the first part of our list of destinations which includes Vienna, Prague, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Budapest and major cities in Germany, Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Spain and Portugal. Details of short-breaks in France will appear next week.

The comprehensive key with our European hotel listing gives you the per person prices which include the cost of the channel crossing and one night's accommodation. The first price listed is the per person cost based on a car and four people travelling together; the second price is based on a car and two people, and the third price shown is the cost per person of an additional night's stay.

In many hotels you will get the sort of luxury to which it is so easy to become accustomed. In others you get the basics, so if you want to save your money for spending on other things, you could have a room large enough to share with two children under 16.

And for readers who prefer to fly, we have negotiated special flight offers through Hamilton Travel with a guarantee that, if you find the identical flight for less within 24 hours of purchase, they will match the lower fare or give you a full refund. A list of flight destinations and fares appears below and details of how to book the flight option, if required, will appear with full details next week.

Simply collect three different tokens from *The Times* and complete a booking form which will appear next week.

Destination	Lowest Published Fare	Hamilton Travel Fares From:
Amsterdam	£128	£66
Brussels	£69	£66
Budapest	£299	£154
Copenhagen	£160	£129
Frankfurt	£212	£105
Geneva	£261	£149
Lisbon	£114	£94
Lyons	£204	£173
Milan	£208	£138
Munich	£272	£108
Nice	£292	£133
Paris	£69	£57
Prague	£330	£143
Rome	£239	£110
Vienna	£275	£142
Zurich	£261	£117

Terms and Conditions
1. Fares shown are per person and compared with published fares correct at the time of going to press, are subject to availability at the time of booking and are exclusive of airport taxes.
2. Reservations and enquiries should be made directly with Hamilton Travel Ltd. Details will appear next week.
3. Full payment is required immediately on confirming your reservation. Only when payment is received will the ticket be issued and the fare guaranteed.
4. Amendments to confirmed reservations are subject to airline rules and regulations applicable to the fare type booked. Please ask for further details before confirming your reservation.
5. Cancellation charges are as follows: before ticket issue – £50 per passenger; after ticket issue – No refund.
6. All cheques should be made payable to Hamilton Travel Ltd. You may also pay by most major credit and debit cards. Credit cards transactions are subject to a 1.5% booking fee.
7. Passport, visa requirements, for destinations listed are available on request.
8. Hamilton Travel Ltd. Atol 1483, Abta V473X.

AUSTRIA

VIENNA

Holiday Inn 4* Near the Schönbrunn palace, modern, rest, bar. RO £49 £59 £33.

Hotel Kaiserhof 4* Quiet side-street location within walking distance of Opera. BB £49 £59 £35.

Hotel Tigra 4* Where Mozart stayed when visiting Vienna. RO £49 £59 £35.

The four-star Hotel Kaiserhof in Vienna, from as little as £49 per person

Hotel am Parkring 4* Beautiful views, elegant rest. BB £59 £69 £45

Hotel Erzherzog Rainer 4* Welcoming, typically Viennese atmosphere. BB £69 £79 £57.

BELGIUM

ANTWERP

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza 5* Modern, central, swimming pool. RO £59 £69 £43. Mon-Thur supp £10pp.

BRUGES

Novotel Centrum 3* Overlooking a square in the centre, modern, indoor parking (payable). RO £39 £49 £19 2 + 2.

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza 3* Heart of mediaeval Bruges, underground parking (payable), swimming pool, sauna. BB £79 £89 £71.

Oude Burg Grand Hotel 3* In the shadow of magnificent belfry, most famous monument in Bruges. Baeyens tea-room a must for dessert lovers. BB £39 £49 £28.

BRUSSELS

Le Méridien Brussels 5* New, elegant, prime position in the historic heart of Brussels. RO £79 £89 £63.

Holiday Inn Brussels Airport 3* Modern, swimming pool, sauna, solarium. RO £49 £59 £34 Mon-Thur supplement £30pp.

GHENT

Holiday Inn 3* Good base for exploring the city's glorious mediaeval past, modern, rest, leisure facilities. RO £59 £69 £42. Mon-Thur supplement £15pp.

CZECH REPUBLIC

PRAGUE

City Hotel Moran 4* Short walk from Wenceslas square, close to river Vltava, recently renovated, friendly. BB £59 £69 £51.

Hotel Bila Labut 3* Czech and international cuisine, fitness centre, sauna. BB £59 £69 £49.

DENMARK

COPENHAGEN

Hotel City 4* Quiet side-street, in heart of historic Copenhagen. BB £59 £69 £42.

GERMANY

FRANKFURT

Le Méridien Parkhotel 4* Close to opera house, shops and River Main, modern, well-equipped fitness area. RO £79 £89 £71. Excludes Feb 23-26, Mar 11-17.

MUNICH

Holiday Inn 3* Large, modern, rest, beer cellar, leisure facilities, close centre. RO £69 £79 £57.

HUNGARY

BUDAPEST

Novotel Centrum 3* Stands in a park of chestnut trees, rest, pizzeria, indoor pool, sauna, solarium, fitness and beauty salon, bar, bowling alleys. RO £39 £49 £27 2 + 2.

Inn-Side Hotel Wien 3* Central, Viennese-style café-rest, fitness centre, sauna. BB £59 £69 £46.

Inn-Side Hotel Art 3* Newly built, five minutes from city shopping. RO £49 £59 £33.

[illegible]

BRAY

Royal Hotel 3* Seaside resort south of Dublin, pool, sauna, solarium, gym, elegant restaurant. RO £39 £49 £20.

DUBLIN

The Regency Hotel 3* Overlooking centre, main house dates back 200 years, rest, bar, elegant lounge. RO £39 £49 £20.

[illegible]

MILAN

Excelsior Hotel Gallia 4* Central, rest specialising in regional cusine, health club, gym, sauna. RO £79 £89 £66 Weekends only.

Hotel City 3* Heart of shopping area, modern. RO £39 £49 £25 A supplement of £24pp applies to certain dates, call for details

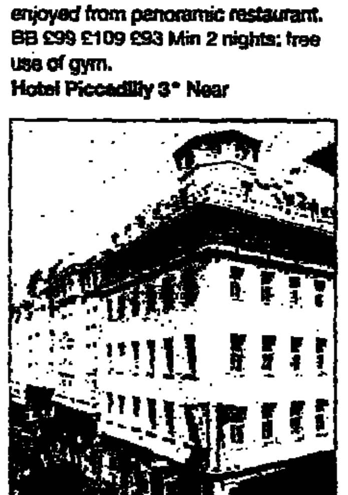
Holiday Inn 3* West of city, near centre, imposing, modern. RO £69 £79 £57.

ROME

Hotel Eden 4* Close to Spanish steps, recently restored to former glory. Forum and Colosseum can be enjoyed from panoramic restaurant. BB £99 £109 £93 Min 2 nights: free use of gym.

Hotel Piccadilly 3* Near Colosseum, breakfast room on 9th floor with panoramic views. RO £39 £49 £25.

Holiday Inn St Peters 3* Between airport and city centre, modern, rest, piano bar. RO £69 £79 £62.



The three-star Inn-side Hotel Art, Budapest, from £49.

The three-star Holiday Inn, Leiden, Netherlands from £59 per person

[illegible]

AMSTERDAM

Ibis Centrum 2* On the water's edge, rest, bar. Public parking available opposite, and garage parking (payable). RO £49 £59 £37.

Holiday Inn 5* Easy access to city centre by train or tram, modern rest, bar. RO £59 £69 £43.

Cok Tourist Class 3* Overlooking Vondelpark, close to Rijksmuseum, modern. BB £39 £49 £24.

Cok Superior Tourist Class 3* A tram ride from Damsquare and the city's famous Van Gogh museum. BB £39 £49 £24.

Cok Business Class 3* Overlooking the Vondelpark, modern, comfortable. BB £39 £49 £24.

Le Méridien Apollo 4* Canalside where five waterways meet, close city centre, modern, à la carte rest, brasserie, bar. RO £59 £69 £50.

Eden Hotel 3* Overlooking Amstel river, short walk to Rembrandtplein, mixture of traditional and modern decor. RO £39 £49 £27.

LEIDEN

Holiday Inn 3* Close centre, indoor pool, tennis, squash, sauna, solarium. BB £59 £69 £42. Min stay 2 nights.

[illegible]

LISBON

Ibis Centre 2* On Avenue José Malhoa, well-placed for exploring. RO £39 £49 £20.

Holiday Inn 3* Central, just 5km from airport, rest. RO £49 £59 £34.

Le Méridien Lisbon 4* Central with spectacular views from one of the city's famous seven hills, international cuisine, regional specialities. RO £59 £69 £48.

[illegible]

GENEVA

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza 4* Close to picturesque old town, stylish, modern, indoor pool, sauna, Turkish baths. RO £59 £69 £49. Mon-Thur supplement £8pp.

Hôtel Des Bergues 5* Overlooking Lake Geneva with a stunning view of French Alps, first opened in 1834, classified as an historic monument. RO £99 £109 £99.

EB = extra bed available
FR = family room
2 + 2 = bedrooms avail for 2 adults and 2 children under [illegible]
RO = room only
BB = bed and breakfast
EBC = extra child's bed available
pp = per person

THE TIMES
EUROPEAN
SHORT
BREAKS
TOKEN 1

■ OPINION

Are we turning into a nation of snoozers? Research suggests that we just want to stay in bed

■ DANCE

The legacy of Diaghilev, perhaps the greatest of impresarios, goes on show at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE

Pretty music, but superficial performances, in a new *Twelfth Night* in Watford

■ RECORDS

A brilliant disc from guitar virtuoso Sharon Isbin, plus other new CDs reviewed in Weekend, page 8

This is your wake-up call, Britain

IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Tell me this. Are we sleeping too much? As a nation, I mean. It's an odd question, but it has been keeping me awake at nights. You see, this week the 1996 edition of *Social Trends* — the bible of British statistics — was published, and it suggests that we are a very dozy country indeed. The average British adult apparently sleeps an incredible 61 hours each week — or eight hours 43 minutes per night. They may be sleepless in Seattle, but in Sidcup, Stirling and Swansea, it seems, they can't get their heads down often enough.

Who are these amazing average adults? Nobody I know admits to sleeping more than seven hours a night, and some playboys of the Wapping world boast that they get by on four or five hours ("work hard, play hard, that's my motto, laddie"). Perhaps the figure in *Social Trends* takes into account those illicit naps in the office ("just popping down to archives, Doris; hold the fort for an hour, would you?"). Even so, there is clearly some discrepancy between anecdotal evidence and the cold statistical summaries of *Social Trends*. Perhaps we ought to call it a yawning gap.

If *Social Trends* is correct, it has all sorts of worrying implications for people in the entertainment industry. Consider this. Mr and Mrs Average spend eight hours and 43 minutes in the Land of Nod each night. Assume that their alarm goes off at 7.30am for a nine o'clock start at work. This would suggest that they are safely tucked up before 11pm each evening. So they will need to be home well before ten if they are to enjoy a cocoa, a bath and a quick canoodle before lights out (and *Social Trends* does suggest that the average adult spends a healthy 15 hours a week on "eating, personal hygiene and caring", with the figure rising — for some mysterious reason — to an obsessive 21 hours for "females in part-time employment").

Do you see what I am driving at? If so, you have remarkable telepathic powers. Try bending some spoons while I elucidate for other readers. When did you last attend a play, concert, opera or ballet that finished before nine in the evening? I'll wager that you cannot remember. Yet logically that is when all live entertainment *should* finish, if it is to fit in with the dreary lifestyle of Mr and Mrs Average UK Adult. Little wonder, then, that the average time spent by our dull couple at "concerts, theatre, cinema and sports spectating" is deemed too insignificant for *Social Trends* to quantify.

It gets worse. Our average adult, says *Social Trends*, spends 19 hours a week basically watching the telly, and a further one or two hours "doing nothing". Add that to the 61 hours of actual sleep, and you have to conclude that the Average British Brain is disengaged from any semblance of activity for half of its life (if "life" is what it is deemed to be).

True, some telly programmes can engage the brain. I am fairly sure that I am mentally alert during *Baywatch*, for example, whereas I drift in and out of consciousness during *Gladiators*, and have almost no recollection of *Blind Date*, though my loved ones assure me that I do, in fact, sit through many exciting instalments of Miss Cilla Black's *divertissement*.

But what's to be done about the Mogadon Majority? Or should anything be done? After all, the great poets are divided on the big sleep question. The School of Snooze, led by Keats, are all in favour of slumping into slumber — or at least soporific alliteration — as often as possible:

O soft embalmer of the still
midnight!
Shutting with careful fingers
and benign
Our gloom-pleased eyes . . .

Er, quite. Wake us when you reach the punchline, John. On the other hand, there's the "ain't life grand before dawn" school, led by Herrick. They advise rising at about 5am, so that Nature's wonders may be sampled while the dew is still fresh on the daisy:

Nay! not so much as out of bed?
When all the birds have matins
said . . .

That does seem excessively macho. I don't know about where you live, but out here in deepest Hendon the birds tend to say matins pretty early. Nevertheless, Herrick's approach is surely closer to what our supine country needs at present. We can't go on wasting half our lives in a state of torpor.

Perhaps this could be the Big Idea that the Prince of Wales so earnestly seeks to mark the millennium. We could launch a national campaign: Keep Britain Awake. And not just awake, but active. It's unbelievable that the nation which produced Newton, Brunel, Wren and Dickens should now be content to devote four hours a week, on average, to "pet care". That's two whole years of an average British life spent dishing out Pedigree Chum.

Yet this is what *Social Trends* says that we do. I must say, I am starting to dislike *Social Trends*. It does seem to portray us as a nation of gormless slobs. After all, if these are Britain's *social* trends, just imagine how terrible the anti-social ones must be.

Genesis of a dance genius

Debra Craine on an exhibition about the founder of the Ballets Russes

He wasn't a dancer, and he didn't make ballets. He didn't design them, and he didn't write the music for them. Yet Serge Diaghilev is one of the giants of the dance world, his name synonymous with innovation and excitement.

His circle of collaborators included some of the greatest dancers — Pavlova, Nijinsky, Karsavina — and the greatest choreographers — Fokine, Massine, Balanchine — of the 20th century. The array of designers who dressed his productions is awesome: from Bakst and Benois to Picasso and Matisse. Diaghilev commissioned the most important ballet music Stravinsky ever wrote — *Firebird*, *Petrushka* and *The Rite of Spring* — and he employed Debussy, Satie, Ravel and Prokofiev to write ballets for him.

Even today, more than 65 years after his death in 1929, Diaghilev exudes a kind of exotic magnetism. Books and films have retold his story for each generation. Now a new exhibition at the Barbican, *Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes*, attempts to trace the development of Diaghilev's vision, the entrepreneurial drive and artistic philosophy that led him to form the Ballets Russes, arguably the most influential ballet company ever. More than 300 works, selected by the art historian Ann Kodicek, have been drawn together from public and private collections in Russia and the West, including costumes and original set designs never seen in London before.

The exhibition is presented in two distinct halves. Upstairs is what came before the Ballets Russes, the early days in Perm where art and music were the everyday components of Diaghilev's privileged upbringing. Then, from 1890, the days in St Petersburg where he went to study law and became part of Benois' Society for Self Improvement, a cultural talking shop for young artists and literati. It wasn't long before Diaghilev, Bakst and Benois were turning the art world on its head with their extraordinarily lavish magazine, *The World of Art* (one of the most impressive displays in the show); soon Diaghilev was making a name for himself mounting exhibitions of Russian and European paintings, culminating in the 1906 *Exhibition of Russian Art* in Paris.

Downstairs, though, is what everyone comes to see: the glorious, art-driven thrust of the early years of the Ballets Russes (the Barbican show ends in 1914). The ground floor is fitted out like a theatre, with heavy red velvet curtains and eight proscenium arch decorations depicting scenes from Diaghilev's opera and ballet productions. Here you find Golovine's magic garden designs for *The Firebird*, Goncharova's primary-coloured Disneyland set for *Le Coq d'Or*, Bakst's extravagant evocation of an Arabian harem for *Schéhérazade*, Benois' cosy puppet world for *Petrushka*. What is most evident is how these Russian artists, especially Benois and Bakst, came alive in the theatre; their paintings upstairs seem etiolated by the vibrancy of their work for the ballet.

There are 18 costumes: six from the State Theatre Museum in St Petersburg, 12 from the Theatre Museum in London (all of which have been hidden away in a warehouse). You can see the costume Karsavina wore as the ballerina in *Petrushka*; the costume Nijinsky wore for his Albrecht in London in 1911; Fokine's costume in *Carnaval*.

Diaghilev himself hovers like an invisible presence. There are early photographs and, most impressively, those *World of Art* journals. But there are no personal possessions, no letters, no documentary evidence of the role he played in nurturing the talent in his midst. The one thing missing from this impressive exhibition is Diaghilev's extraordinary personality.

● Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes, *Barbican Art Gallery (0171-382 7105), until April 14*

Bakst's costume design for a Bacchante in *Narcisse*, one of 300 works at the Barbican

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

NICK GROSSO

Age: 27

Profession: Playwright

Produce: *Peaches*, Grosso's first play was picked up by the Royal Court. The critics appreciated his snapshots of a north London lad trying to be cool with the chicks and bragging with the boys. They applauded his ear for the inarticulacies of youth culture.

Close to home: Grosso grew up in north London. "All my material comes from there," he notes. He is the British offspring of Russian Jewish mother and Italian Catholic father, both architects who came here from Argentina, whither his father returned.

Coming up: The Royal Court is about to stage Grosso's second play, *Sweetheart*. It features, he says, "another central fella who's a drifter". "*Sweetheart* is not autobiographical, but I lacked direction for a long time. Writing about directionless people has given me direction."

The path to plays: Grosso went to comprehensive school in Hampstead and trained as a photographer. "I never had any interest in drama," he recalls, "but wrote prose and poetry then started making short films about urban rituals — the dog tracks, football spectators. From there I got interested in writing scripts." Grosso joined the Royal Court Young Writer's Group. *Peaches*, however, reached the Theatre Upstairs via Caryl Churchill who chatted to Grosso after a National Theatre platform talk, read his script and speedily forwarded it to the Court.

In the pipeline: Grosso now has a writer's residency at the NT Studio and film projects in the offing.

Alternative careers: Grosso would be willing to play centre forward for Chelsea.

KATE BASSETT

THEATRE

Love on a warm dish

MUSIC, the food of love, plays a lead part in this Oxford Stage Company production, *Kate Bassett writes*. Feste (David Brett) underscores Shakespeare's scenes of half-confessed love, late-night drinking and near-duels with his accordion or guitar.

Kate Fleetwood's Viola and Sebastian (Christopher Chambers), her twin brother, open the play singing "Youth's a stuff will not endure" hauntingly, before spinning and parting in a dance that suggests their shipwreck. This opening song, lyrically sweet yet bitterly mournful, captures the play's poignancy, but there are traces of sentimentality elsewhere.

Twelfth Night
Palace, Watford

The cast speak verse perfectly, but the subtleties are sometimes missing, and the intensity too. Lisa Turner's husky Olivia could be more proudly chilly and put double the passionate pressure on Viola. The latter might respond with fiercer prickliness.

Janine Wood's upmarket Maria is sparky; Andrew Frame's Sir Toby is fine; Alexi Kaye Campbell, by making Sir Andrew Spanish, makes him less lovably small-brained. Meanwhile the play's dark heart is scarcely plumbed. Brett lacks Feste's manic-depressive edge. Jonathan Coyne's Malvolio smiles with all the allure of a lunatic.

Still, the company, boldly playing soliloquies and repartee out to the audience, generates a warm atmosphere.

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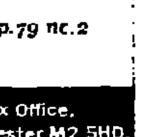

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Sun 28 Jan 11.30 **The London Philharmonic** Resident at the RFH. Family Concert. Christopher Bell (cond) Paul Benistan (tpt) Prog inc Verdi: *Triumphal March (Aida)*; Dukas: The Sorcerer's Apprentice £6 (adults), £3 (children under 15)

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***Fri* 2 Feb 7.30pm**	**JOSEF SUK** violin **Chamber Music Season** **JOSEF HALA** piano Brahms: Sonata No.2 in A Op.100; Dvořák: Sonata in F Op.57 C. Franck: Sonata in A (1886) £14, £12, £9, £6 Wigmore Hall/Transart
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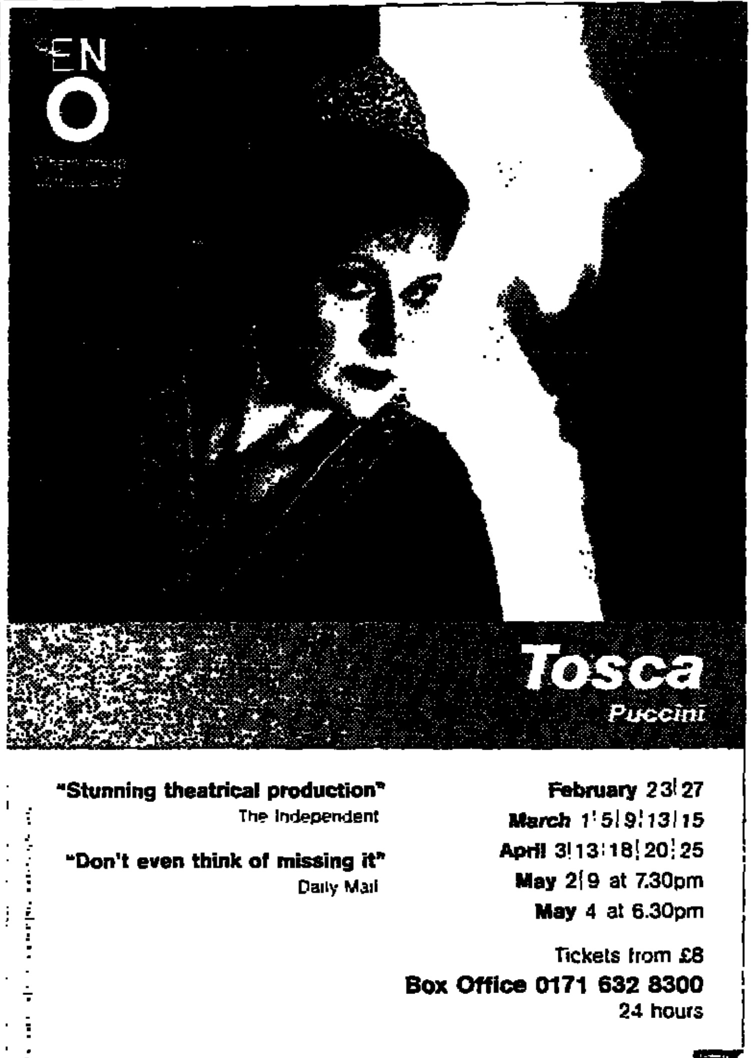

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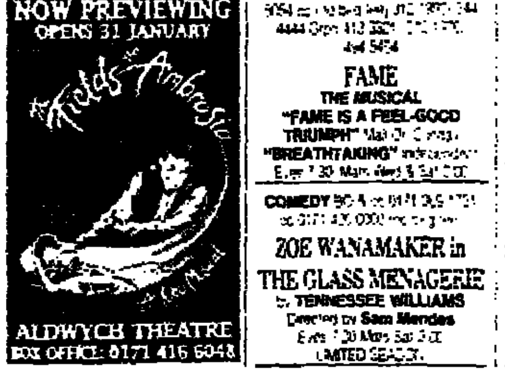

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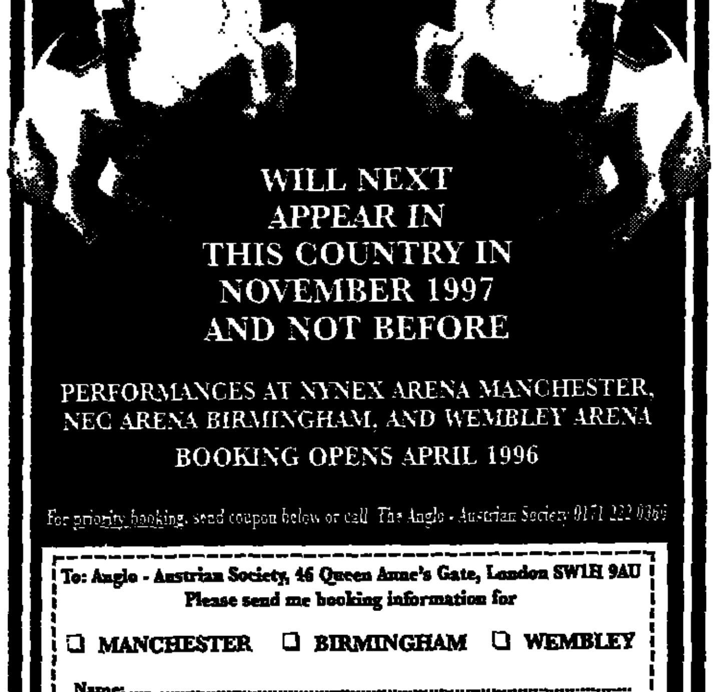

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هحدا من الاصل

■ MUSICAL

The first European staging of Kurt Weill's Broadway show, *Love Life*, is spoilt by mediocre staging

■ BASE NOTES

Whitney Houston meets Mickey Mouse: the singer and actress will now produce films for Disney

THE TIMES ARTS

■ BASE NOTES

Sir Norman Foster is on the distinguished shortlist to design the V&A's Boilerhouse

■ ON MONDAY

Will *Slaughter City* prove to be a powerful new play for the Royal Shakespeare Company?

Rodney Milnes hails the revival of an obscure Weill musical, but not its staging

Nice songs, shame about the visuals

First, the good news. Weill and Lerner's "vaudeville in two parts" of 1948 is an astonishing piece of work. "Years ahead of its time" may be the hoariest of clichés, but no other words will do. As the performance of this virtually plotless "concept" musical progressed in Leeds, title after title of Broadway shows that could scarcely have happened without its example kept springing to mind, in particularly those of Sondheim — *Company*, *Follies*, even *Assassins*, which also traverses a spectrum of popular American musical forms to bind the concept together.

Love Life
Grand, Leeds

There are also detectable foretastes of *West Side Story*, *Gypsy* and *Cabaret*, and it is tragic that this vital piece in the jigsaw of Broadway history should have gone missing for so long, and for reasons that have nothing to do with its quality. Strikes at the time of the successful first run meant no recordings and no sheet-music. Then, after Weill's death, Lerner blocked revivals for reasons of his own.

Yet it is much more than just an "important" score. You come out of the theatre unable to decide which of half-a-dozen great tunes you should be humming and, as is the case with Weill's European pieces, this means you have been got at: the tunes carry words that you might not otherwise find palatable.

The subject is the breakdown and possible salvaging of a marriage, something of which almost every member of every audience must have some experience. The verbal treatment is three parts sour to one part sweet, with the music coming in roughly the same proportion and in a bewildering variety of styles, from the two string lines in counterpoint at the opening (Broadway Bach!) to *Oklahoma!*-style upbeat to savage satire to affectionate pastiche of vaudeville and cabaret routines.

But every bar could only be by Weill, magically orchestrated, pulsating with compassion however hard-edged the surface context. The conductor, Wyn Davies, clearly relished the work's manifold beauties, and conveyed his relish to orchestra and audience alike.

Now for the less good news. For once it seemed that Opera North had bitten off more than it could chew. It would be nice to argue that the company simply didn't have the money to throw at a show that needs the utmost in Broadway pizzazz, but that wouldn't be the whole truth: you can field pizzazz on no money at all. No, *Love Life* was misconceived visually, limply directed, and poorly choreographed.

The producer Caroline Gawn, inexperienced in the genre, did not seem to know how to end a number (many were just left hanging in mid-air) and, in a piece that is a succession of swiftly moving scenes, a drop curtain won't do — it's too slow. There were countless embarrassing hiatuses while we stared at the wretched curtain, waiting in silence for the next scene to begin. The show fell apart.

For the principals, out there on their own, nothing but praise. Margaret Preece played the ingénue wife very sweetly and, even if she lacks the Ethel Merman dimension needed when the going gets nasty, made a lot of the dazzling torch song *Mr Right*. As the husband, Alan Oke managed both the sleaze of *I'm Your Man* and the near-tragedy of his lonely monologue in a hotel room. Geoffrey Dolton played the *Cabaret*-style MC role with enormous panache — he proved a better mover than any of the eight dancers on stage — and sang the motto *Love Song* with great passion.

Love Life is a real eye-opener: go and see it, but just be very, very patient with the staging.

DONALD COOPER

Margaret Preece (foreground) in fine voice in Opera North's *Love Life*

Tickets to a new world

Benjamin Britten once expressed the wish that he wanted to write music that would be "useful, and to the living". *Is* music useful? *Should* it be?

The age-old suspicion that new music is actually written by composers entirely for themselves and their cronies was confirmed when Schoenberg, Berg and Webern worked out their own esoteric language, on the basis that what went before was totally worn out. There are those who feel that language — and perceived access to it — has never been the same since. Thanks to serialism, new music has been driven back into the cloister.

Today's music promoters are adopting more and more desperate measures to sell new music. Orchestras have variously tried lightshows, video screens — even money-back offers. The Philharmonia, London Symphony and London Philharmonic have largely syphoned off new music into the occasional ghetto concert.

The BBC Symphony Orchestra, which never gives up and has devised all sorts of symposiums and education programmes in which schoolchildren demonstrate their devotion to Harrison Birtwistle by composing still *more* new music in celebration of his, has tried unreserved seating and single-price ticketing.

The Scottish Chamber Orchestra is luring audiences to its series of "Glasgow Commissions" by twinning each new composition with a contemporary counterpart in dance, drama or visual art. The South Bank in London markets "21st century art" as a conglomerate of new music, world music and every other music in a search for a "redefinition of sound".

Meanwhile, the faithful London Sinfonietta, in its indefatigable series *Explorations 96*, offers "seriously modern music": no compromises, nobody you've ever heard of, and as many as five premieres in an evening.

Never before has there been a wider range of styles on offer. And, as George Bernard Shaw foresaw in 1897, that in itself causes nothing but problems for all concerned. Jonathan Harvey is a composer who has written in more genres, inflecting his speech through the cadences of more languages than most. And that may well be the reason why an orchestra called Sinfonia 21 has appointed him as its composer-in-association for the next three years.

The orchestra's name speaks loudly of its intentions. Formed in 1989 as the Docklands Sinfonietta, the band has weathered the recession rather better than its former eponymous landscape, and looks forward to the millennium determined to continue with adventurous programmes in which the newest of new music takes its turn with the classical repertoire to which the ensemble is also committed.

> *The Times* invites readers to hear — and comment on — the best in new music

Last summer, Sinfonia 21 gave the world premiere of Simon Holt's *Daedalus remembers* at the Cheltenham Festival. Such is its commitment to new music that its managing director, Sue Bottomley, is an active member of the Arts Council contemporary music network panel, and its general manager, Steven Foster, is chairman of the International Society of Contemporary Music.

Having launched a new spring season which includes four premieres of new works, Sinfonia 21 is initiating, with *The Times*, an open forum on the performance of contemporary music. Now is your chance to take the risk, and say what you think. The voucher below entitles readers to a half-price ticket, and an extra free ticket either for the same concert, or for the next one in the series.

The first concert, on February 8, offers a gentle introduction: Shostakovich, Britten and Ravel, together with the world premiere of Harvey's *Hidden Voice*. The second one, on February 27, is hardcore contemporary: Kagel, Harvey, Berio and Berg, with Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* to soothe the brow at the end. The third, on March 20, juxtaposes Beethoven and Ligeti for those who prefer a jolt.

At each concert audiences will be asked to fill in a questionnaire. Sinfonia 21 is looking for feedback and, in order to stimulate and broaden the debate, *The Times* will unravel the findings and report back.

Do you, for instance, prefer concerts that juxtapose the old with the new? Do you like a spoonful of sugar to help the medicine go down — or is this cheating? Is this the *sort* of new music you like? If not, what would you prefer? Does the venue matter? And the presentation? Do you like to hear a new work more than once in a concert? Do you like the conductor to talk, or do you prefer lucid programme notes or post-performance debate?

"These are pieces *we* believe in," Sinfonia 21 says. "Enjoy them or hate them — but let us know . . ."

HILARY FINCH

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Houston adds to her credits

BASE NOTES

First singing. Then acting. Now producing. The versatile superstar **Whitney Houston** has just entered into a two-year, "non-exclusive, first-look development and production agreement" with Touchstone Pictures, part of the Disney family. This will allow her to produce films and television programmes in which she may also star. Among the projects under consideration is one based on the life of the actress Dorothy Dandridge. Houston's latest film, *Waiting to Exhale*, released in Britain this week, is a box-office hit in America.

● SOME of the biggest names in architecture have been invited to interviews at the Victoria and Albert Museum. The museum is looking for an architect to design a new building for the Boilerhouse, adjacent to the existing museum buildings, which will provide a cultural centre for innovation and experimentation. Among those on the V&A's list are **Will Alsop, Norman Foster, Michael Hopkins, Ian Ritchie** and **Zaha Hadid**.

● ONE of Britain's leading theatre companies has been saved from closure by a one-off rescue-package of £150,000 from the Arts Council. The **Donmar Warehouse** in Covent Garden, which is run by the leading young theatre director **Sam Mendes**, had been destined to close in March after a commercial sponsorship deal ended.

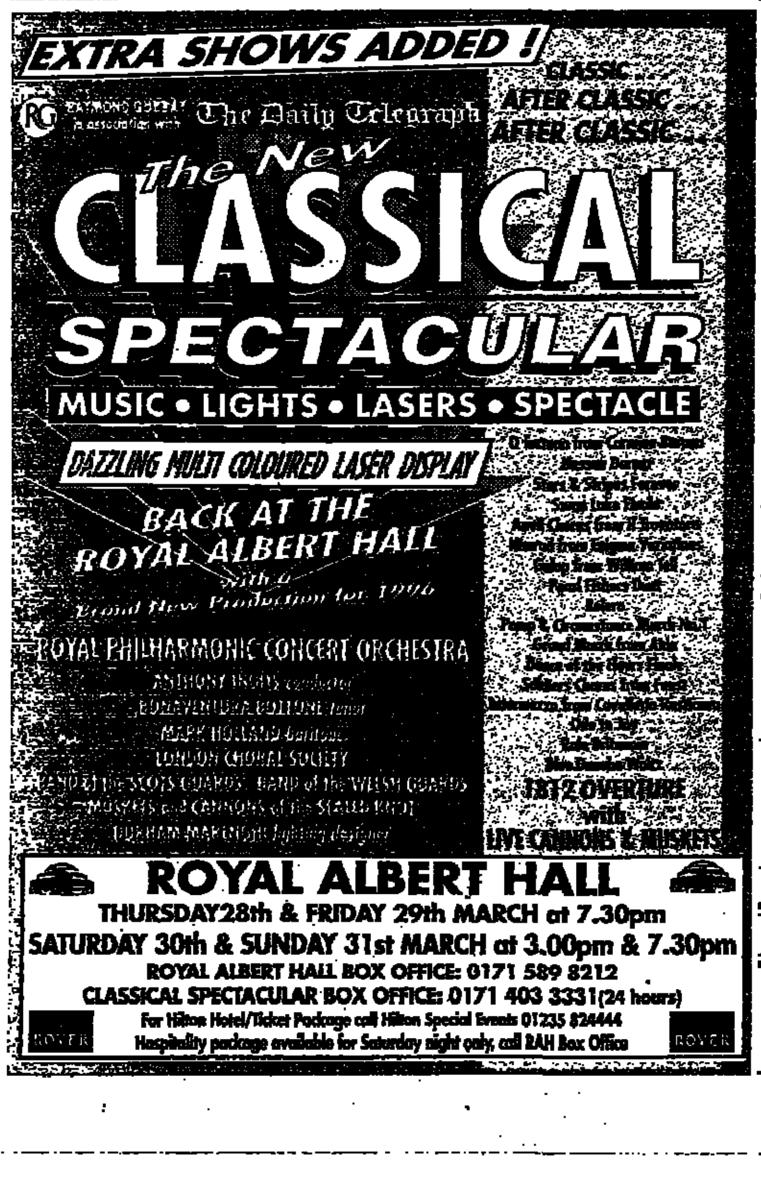
Most of the other Arts Council clients were told this week that they faced a standstill grant for the fourth year running. That, however, is a lot better than was expected. Smart accountancy footwork by **Lord Gowrie**, the Arts Council chairman, limited the potential damage of the £5 million cut in the council's grant. Nevertheless, Gowrie still believes that "a number of important organisations are on the brink of closure".

● HER duet with **Boyz II Men** is still at No 1 in America, her album *Daydream* remains the highest-selling non-soundtrack album in the US, and she has been nominated for six awards at the forthcoming Grammies. But one dark cloud has appeared on **Mariah Carey's** horizon. A Los Angeles court will soon hear an action brought by two local songwriters, **Sharon Taber** and **Randy Gonzales**, who claim that Carey's 1991 hit *Can't Let Go* was lifted from a song they wrote.

● NEXT WEEK sees the first London workshop of a new stage version of the musical classic, *A Star is Born*, produced by **Andrew Lloyd Webber's** Really Useful Group. Attaching a new book by American librettist **Larry Gelbart** (of *City of Angels* fame) to **Harold Arlen's** existing score, the workshop will be directed by **Steven Pimlott** and star the Broadway actress **Judy Kuhn** (*Chess*, *Les Misérables*) in the role Judy Garland made famous. The performance is not open to the public, but is intended to give the creative team a chance to decide the next step.

ENTERTAINMENTS

CLASSICAL CONCERTS



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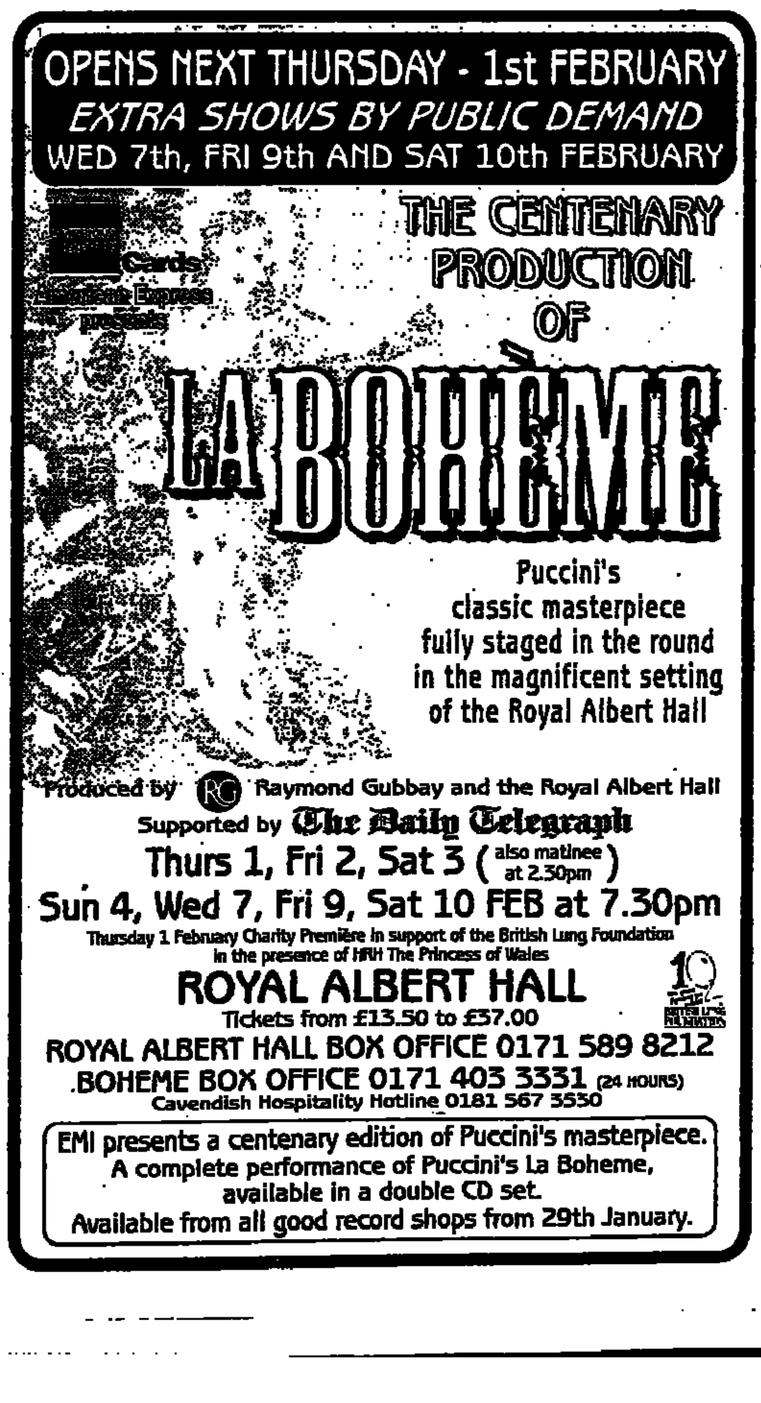

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Puccini's classic masterpiece fully staged in the round in the magnificent setting of the Royal Albert Hall
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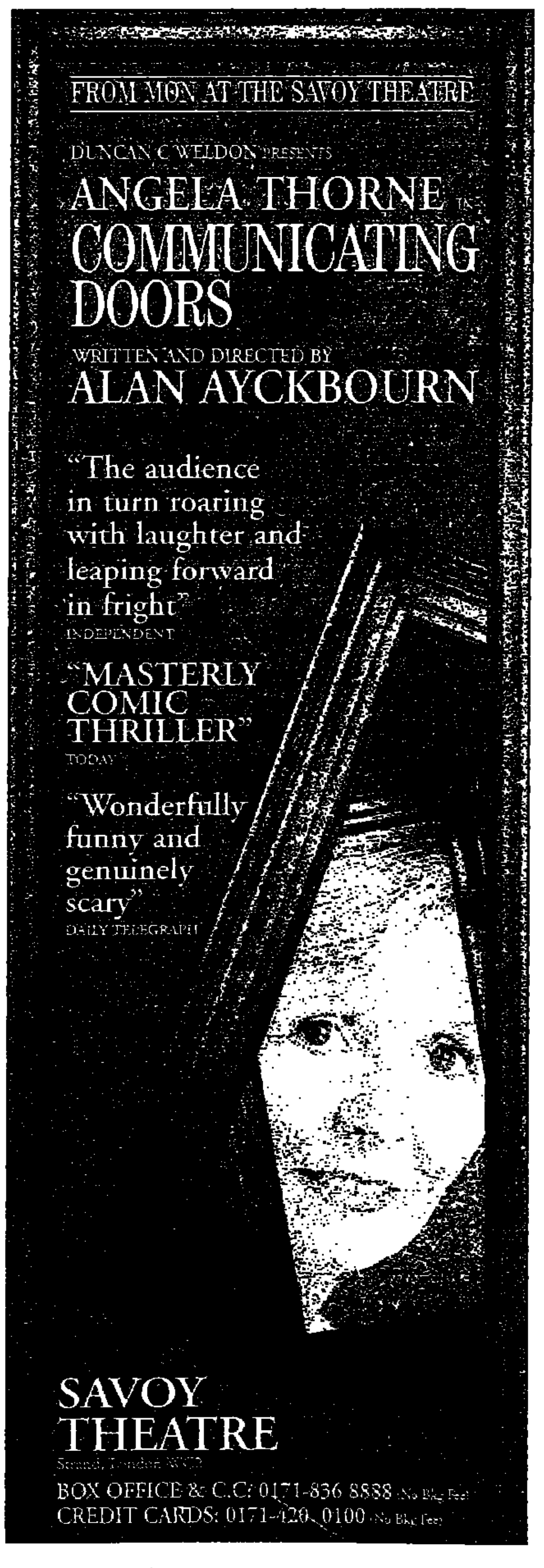

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Why schools are failing the future

Iain Duncan Smith on what makes a good primary school

The very public argument about where Harriet Harman is sending her child to school has raged both nationally and at Westminster this week. Yet at the same time, something else occurred which is no less important and gives us an insight into the cause of the argument, the big socialist education experiment that failed.

This week saw the publication of the test results for 7, 11 and 14-year-olds which should be required reading for any parent, would-be parent, teacher or politician. Much of the argument about the education system has been around the status and quality of education in secondary schools while beneath all of that the Cinderella of the system, primary eduction, has to a large extent passed people's notice. Yet as the results for 11-year-olds demonstrate, it is this area which is arguably the most important and the most in need of examination. For it is here that some of the more ludicrous experiments took place as a result of the 1960s rethink of teaching methods.

Primary school lays the foundation for all that follows, for if a child enters secondary school without a basic ability in the three Rs the rest of their education is a nightmare for them. However, I fear that once the educational establishment has studied these results from the primary schools, it will be tempted to set up study groups to tell us why they are so poor — a process which would waste time and only end up telling us what most parents know already.

The secret of a good primary school, as with any school, is the head teacher. A motivated and focused head teacher, as I have observed on many occasions, can move mountains. It is they who direct their teachers, who create the right environment through discipline and organisation and who find ways of dealing with even the most recalcitrant parents.

There is a big gap between running a primary school and teaching in one. Selection is too often a case of "dead men's shoes" compounded by politically correct criteria pushed upon them by socialist local education authorities.

One school I know, which exists in the most difficult circumstances and in the shadow of a housing estate, illustrated this perfectly for me. The parents who send their children here are not middle-class, many are themselves failures of the system. The head teacher realised that standards relied to a great extent on the parents' involvement at home. Yet the parents were scared of exposing their shortcomings to their children or to the teachers, and their children often returned to school with incomplete homework. This particular head teacher brought the parents into the school, reminded them of the importance of their involvement, but — most importantly — he started teaching them what their children were learning. The improvement quickly began to show.

However, even such motivated and focused head teachers face an uphill struggle when confronted by some teaching methods. For example, many teachers are now questioning the project-based method which has children sitting for so much of their day around group tables. Furthermore, some schools even had open-plan classrooms. Just imagine how little the children learnt with so many distractions — yet I remember the educationists talking nonsense about the need for such classrooms.

Young children are like dry sponges: their whole day is an exercise in absorbing information. Successful schools are the ones that focus on learning in a disciplined and structured environment. I have in mind one reception-class teacher who is remarkably strict. She warns the parents from the outset of their obligations and imparts to both parents and children the importance of time-keeping and orderly behaviour. The result is that children taught by her go on to the next year well fitted for the process of learning. The old primary school system at least had this at its core before the Sixties experiments began and we would do well to look to it again to rectify so many of them.

A motivated and focused head teacher can move mountains

The good schools have also returned to uniforms, thus helping to break peer-group pressure in the playground and instilling a sense of *esprit de corps* among pupils, staff and parents. The guiding themes which seem to exist among good schools are those of structure and discipline. They re-emphasise the core values. One primary school I know has even decided to teach Latin again to improve understanding of English.

While this Government has started to change the system for the better, these test results show we have a great deal more to do. We knew when we arrived in Government that the system was already failing as a result of the ideological nonsense that had been rammed down teachers' throats by the education establishment and the Labour Party through the comprehensive system. So many politically motivated local authorities continued with these ideologies and if criticism is due, it is that we should have tackled them faster.

The object, therefore, must now be to press ahead with the reforms and we should introduce league tables for primary schools to identify the successful ones. This will help us to challenge and reverse all those remaining facets of the socialist experiment that failed. Only by doing this will we ensure that future test results do justice to our children.

The author is Conservative MP for Chingford. Two of his children attend a state primary school.

PHILIP HOWARD

■ The English are famed for hypocrisy. And a good thing, too

Of course Hattie Harman is a hypocrite. But the non-political classes (95.2 per cent of the population) are now thoroughly bored with the uproar about which school she and her husband (and son) select for the boy. Our attention span for such party games is as short as the time it takes to sink a pint of Old Pettyfogger's Peculiar in the snug bar. And anyhow, the real row is not about hypocrisy at all.

The row is actually only another final shoot-out between new Labour and old Labour in the civil war for the soul of her party, enjoyable for bystanders, though not for Ms Harman. Of course she has made the right choice in putting the education for her son above the last shibboleth of her party to test political purity. And of course saloon-bar pundits — and their representatives, backbenchers of all parties — are raging with righteous indignation and guffawing with *Schadenfreude*. But of course Hattie is a hypocrite, and of course she is right.

We English are famous throughout the world for our hypocrisy about schools — and everything else. Why else would we call our exclusive fee-paying private schools "public"? Why else would we send our children straight from sucking milk-bottles away to boarding-schools "for their own good", and "It never did me any harm [Sez who, Dad?]"? All other nations get rid of their children in this way only when ordered to do so by a judge. The hardest part of learning English is neither the grammar nor the pronunciation, but the subtext of hypocrisy. This is the language in which "With the greatest respect..." is academic hypocrisy for "I have no respect for your opinion at all, and am about (metaphorically) to break the top off a bottle and (literally) deconstruct you".

If we are to survive in hypocrisospeak, from an early age we learn the English skill of conveying our meaning in reports and references, without spelling it out. "I have never experienced a secretary like him." "Major Blood will be greatly missed by our more adventurous science specialists." "We don't know how we'll ever replace her (mainly because we haven't quite worked out what she did)."

Tony Baldry, our Fisheries Minister, was using postgraduate hypocrisy when he told *Fishing News* and *The World at One* that British waters out to the 12-mile limit are "not negotiable". Fishing rights right up to the shoreline were handed over to the EU under Regulation 2141/70, so they are "not negotiable" after 2002 only because there is nothing left to negotiate. This was breathtaking ministerial hypocrisy: literal truth masking utter deception.

Burns Night in this, the poet's 200th anniversary year, has been celebrated with a spate of haggis, whisky and hypocrisy. The thirstiest drunkard in the parish praised his wit, Wee Free ministers of religion admired his temperance, the biggest lechers in Rotary droned on about his romanticism, and the most terrifying trouts acted as antidotes to desire and oxymorons as respondents on behalf of the bonny lasses. John Major suggested that Burns would have voted Conservative against more taxes. But as an exciseman, Burns might well have been in favour of more excise duties. Burns, like any great artist, was a mass of contradictions, the follower of no party line. The only thing that matters is that he wrote the truest (and funniest) love lyrics.

English hypocrisy grows out of our puritanical and passionate history. In the Greek theatre — where the word started, like irony, agony, and many others — the hypocrite was a bit-player who "answered" the protagonist. His original sin was merely that he answered back.

The Authorised Version, with Christ's denunciations of scribes, Pharisees and hypocrites, gave hypocrisy a bad name — although the advice about doing your good deeds in private rather than in the corners of the streets like hypocrites is sound, and should be heeded by self-publicising hustlers and ageing pop stars at charity concerts.

But decent hypocrisy is essential to civilised society. When sent an unsolicited typescript of a 1,000-page novel with a request for your honest opinion, the truth is always: "I would pay £10 if you promised never to inflict such rubbish on me again." It is kinder to be a hypocrite (and plagiarist): "I shall waste no time in reading your novel."

A millennium fit for a Prince

The Prince of Wales is calling for spiritual renewal in the year 2000, but there is no shortage of visions

Simon Jenkins

The Prince of Wales wrote this week that the end of the millennium should be a time of spiritual renewal, not a materialist binge. He called for reflection rather than a "giant but essentially meaningless party". Here was a chance, he said, to restore the "enduring cultural priorities which represent a moral foundation in a world dominated by consumerism".

The Prince's abstract nouns are nowadays converted into tabloid prose at phenomenal speed. Those sent to search his rhetorical haystack for needles of meaning are forbidden to return without a story. As a result, they grasp at a talking plant, a Hindu temple or a sustainable-resource-activity-centre and leave it at that. Small wonder that Thursday's papers were confused by the Prince's musings in *Perspectives in Architecture* magazine. "Make it a matter of the spirit," said a desperate headline in *The Guardian*. The tabloids gave up: "You mosque be joking" said the *Daily Star*, "You've lost the plottery, Charles" said *The Sun*. The heir to the Throne is a splendid parsonical Midas. All he touches turns to sermon.

Everyone involved in the millennium preparations has faced the same question as the Prince: what is the vision? We know that the calendar is based on the birth of Christ, though it appears to be five years adrift. We mark anniversaries and birthdays as temporal milestones. But these are no more than the tick of a clock or the chime of a bell. Centuries are astronomically insignificant. The first day of the new millennium will be no different from the last of the old. The date is hallowed by tradition, but nothing else. Who needs vision? Why the fuss?

The answer is that on the night of December 31, 1999 (or for purists, a year later), a great fuss there will be. Lottery players will have donated more than a billion pounds to making that fuss. Everyone will, for some atavistic reason, feel something at the turn of the millennium. Even the cynic who has a drink and goes to bed early will do so deliberately. I believe the so-called "vision dilemma" is really a deep uncertainty, not over whether to feel something on the night, but over what *ought* to be felt.

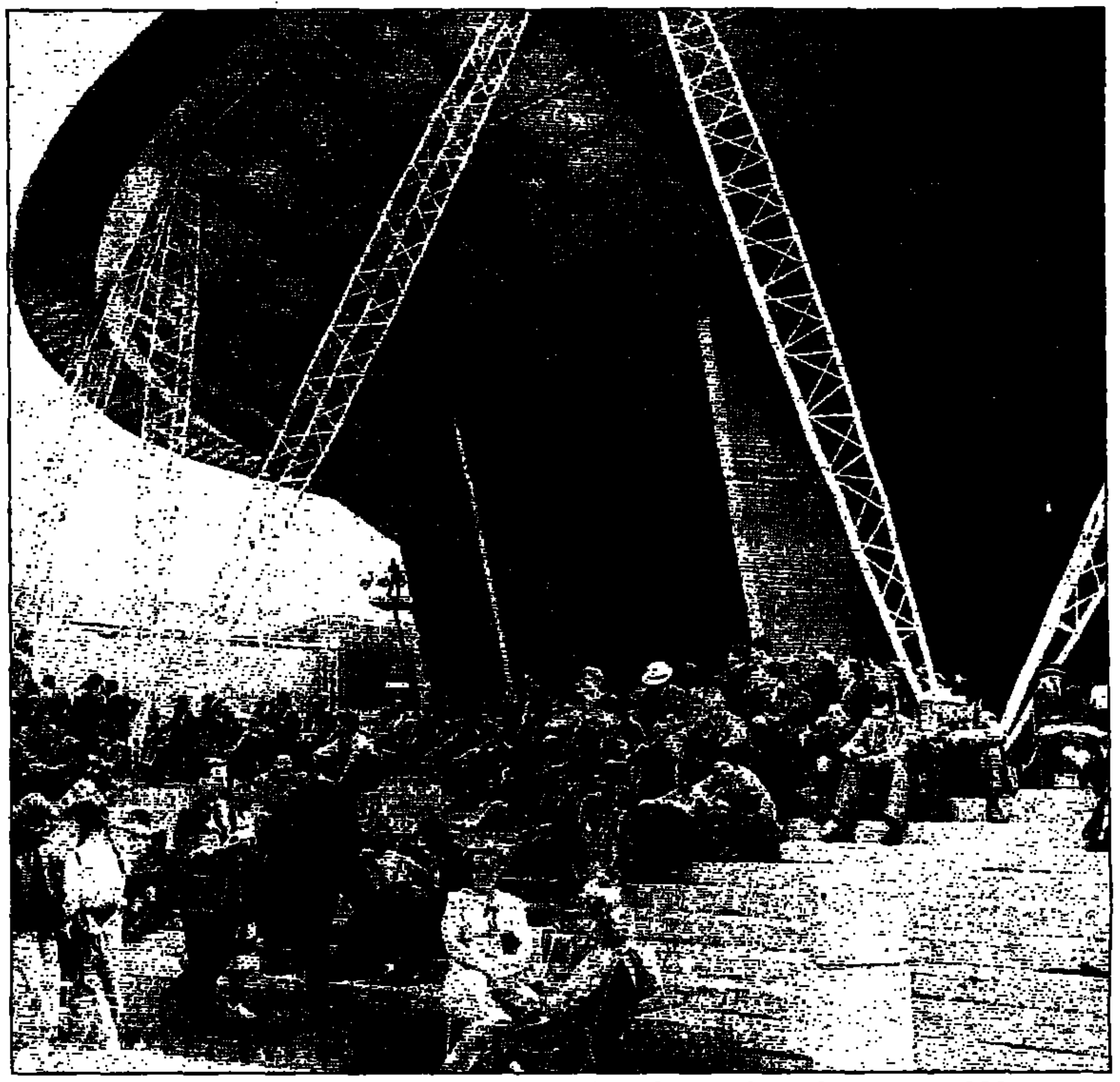
Some people fear they are being hoodwinked by astrological superstition, or succumbing to medieval millenarianism, which forecast dozens of cataclysmic dates. In AD 1000 there was plenty of vision, mostly of hellfire and damnation. Nothing happened. Ethelred was on the English Throne, still unready and levying Danegeld. Erikson the Viking landed in North America but did not realise it. The 20-year-old Otto III dreamt of reviving the glory of Imperial Rome, but failed. The Toltec prince Topiltzin founded the kingdom of Chichen Itza. There were millennial achievements, such as the Bridge of Ten Thousand Ages in Foochow, the church of San Pietro in Perugia and the first novel, *The Tale of Genji*, in Japan. In India a mathematician named Sridhara discovered the number zero. Few knew it was AD 1000, so few felt any anticlimax afterwards.

In my experience, a vision is a commodity nobody claims to have but demands to be "offered", usually so as to reject it as insufficiently Utopian. In American politics, so obscure is the concept that it has been expanded into "the vision thing", adding nothing in the process. Many pleas for millennial visions suffer from what philosophers call eschatological fantasy, defined by Roger Scruton as "the promise of an eventual release from earthly miseries by an enduring security, preferably without political institutions".

The great eschatological novel *The Man Without Qualities* by Robert Musil, written at the start of this century, has its hero Ulrich lost and searching for moral certainty amid technological and social revolution. The search draws him, not unlike the Prince of Wales, into a web of schemes for celebrating the Austro-Hungarian Jubilee. A more primitive, and perhaps relevant, example is the Polynesian cargo cult, a belief that a day is at hand when outsiders will arrive to shower gifts on worshippers.

The Prince suggests that the millennium should be the occasion for a cosmic new year's resolution. Many of us might sympathise. But what does this mean? Insofar as it can be pinned down, the proposal is emphatically not that portrayed by Musil's jubilee commissioners. It is not "the tumult and the shouting", "the Captains and the Kings" of Kipling's *Recessional*, but "An humble and a contrite heart... Lest we forget, lest we forget."

The Prince wants the millennium to eschew materialism, to be something that "originates in our hearts and not our heads", since it is the "intuitive powers of the heart that lie at the root of all spiritual experience". Yet no sooner does the Prince enunciate his aversion to materialism than he asks for material.



Overshadowed by the future: visitors to the 1951 Festival of Britain beneath the Dome of Discovery

He wants the Millennium Commission (in which I declare an interest as a member of it) to give grants to his favoured causes. He may want a spiritual hermitage, but it is not that of Francis of Assisi, more that of Catherine the Great or the Hindu temple at Neasden. He wants millennium money to go to church, chapel, mosque and temple, and to architectural, environmental and urban renewal projects.

The irony is that whenever the Prince gives substance to his vision, it is precisely the remit which the Millennium Commission has given itself. Running down the list of proposals we find a Scottish forest, a national cycleway network, an architecture centre in Manchester, an ecology park in Doncaster, the renewal of Bankside power station, parks, community halls and coastal paths without number. The commission is currently the embodiment of the Prince's oft-stated plea that new public investment should correct the environmental ravages of the past and nudge the nation towards what he would call a sustainable future.

There is a material cost to this, perhaps even a "materialism" cost, if that is how the Prince sees the lottery. But spirituality comes free of charge. Bricks and mortar cost money and money must be paid for. The Prince cites churches and cathedrals, which are already receiving lottery money. But there are other "cathedrals" in Britain, embodiments of beauty and tradition if not of Christian faith. There are the museums, galleries, theatres and stadiums, the parks and gardens, the towns, villages, forests and wildernesses to which the public flocks in its spare time and which are already the object of millennium support. In each of these there is a wealth of vision, if anyone would care to ask those committed to them.

The setting up of the Millennium Commission was one of the more eccentric acts of government, as was giving it one fifth of the proceeds of the National Lottery (an estimated £1.6 billion). This was a statist ostentation rather out of character with John Major's Cabinet. As if aware of this, the Cabinet then backtracked. The commission was forbidden to initiate projects or stimulate grant applications. It could only publish criteria on which projects would be judged. The emphasis on environmental renewal, culture and science closely accords with the Prince's known views.

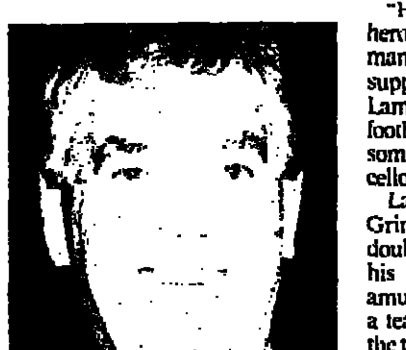
In other words, the money might be public but the visions were to be many and private. The commission was to be reactive. This approach to the millennium was communitarian, non-elitist and "bottom-up". It delegated vision to the public and the bias of support reflects the public's response.

To an intellectual grandee this might seem a pity. A dose of directional elitism is useful in getting public projects built in just four years (and may yet be needed). But I am not sure the strategy was wrong. As the Prince's effort shows, a great national vision to mark the turn of the clock is a chimera. If there is to be a millennial rebirth, it will come not from princes or governments or commissions, but from within individuals and their communities. I prefer Kipling's pluralism: "There are nine and sixty ways of constructing tribal lays,/ And-every-single-one-of-them-is-right."

Idol moment

THE THRILL of being selected to fight Harrogate for the Tories may be eclipsed by an even more exciting date in Norman Lamont's diary. After more than 20 years of worship he is to sit down at the same luncheon table as his idol — Lawrie McMenemy, the man he reveres as the most successful manager in the history of Grimsby Town Football Club.

McMenemy, known to his footballing friends as "the big fella", is now director of football at Southampton FC and was manager of Lamont's beloved "Mariners" in the early 1970s when he took them to the heady heights of Fourth Division champions. This transpires to have been an event as important in the former Chancellor's life as Black Wednesday. He bumped into McMenemy, a jolly giant of a man with a good line in after-dinner jokes, at a recent party thrown by Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and wasn't too starry-eyed to arrange lunch.



McMenemy: local hero

"He's always been the greatest hero of mine, a very successful manager of Grimsby who I have supported since I lived there," says Lamont. "I'm a great admirer of football managers. They have something in common with Chancellors in the flak they get."

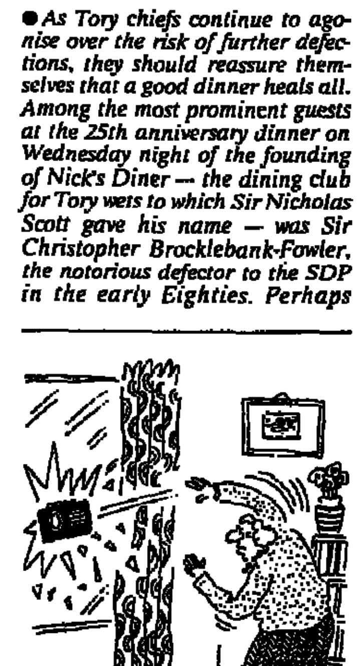
Lamont's loyalty, in respect of Grimsby Town, should not be doubted. One Christmas, during his Chancellorship, fans were amused to spot him wrapped up in a team scarf and cap, queueing at the turnstiles with his son. The club chairman, witnessing this scene, took pity and brought him in from the cold for a winter warmer in the directors' box.

● *Some of our political dinosaurs are already extinct in the minds of the young. The new, very green, puppet co-ordinator on* Spitting Image *was sent to collect the latex version of Arthur Scargill from a storeroom. "What does he look like?" she asked. The producer, Giles Pilbrow, told her: "You can't miss him, he's an old, balding, left-wing Labour politician with a grubby grey suit." She returned with Neil Kinnock.*

Robbed

THE bargain of all Burns Night suppers was enjoyed by students at The Globe public house in Dundee on Thursday. The publican, Jack Cooper, was offering a square deal of haggis, tatties, neeps and "a drink of your choice" for £2 a head. Then law students spotted a bottle of the exclusive Louis Treize brandy, Churchill's favourite breakfast tipple, on the gantry and demanded the fine cognac, worth £25 a glass, as their chosen drink. "I'd forgotten all about that bottle," wails Cooper. "I couldn't believe it when they asked for it but they started going on about the Trade Descriptions Act. I needed a measure myself to steady my nerves."

● *As Tory chiefs continue to agonise over the risk of further defections, they should reassure themselves that a good dinner heals all. Among the most prominent guests at the 25th anniversary dinner on Wednesday night of the founding of Nick's Diner — the dining club for Tory wets to which Sir Nicholas Scott gave his name — was Sir Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, the notorious defector to the SDP in the early Eighties. Perhaps Emma Nicholson and Alan Howarth will be back at the Tory trough ten years from now.*



Hot favourite

THEY'VE found an ingenious method of warming up jockeys during the freeze at Newbury racecourse — a mechanical horse is being installed in the changing room. The contraption, known as a "ride away", aims to get cold muscles warmed up for the first race.

"All other athletes warm up and it does seem strange that we have not seen a mechanical horse at a racecourse before," says Michael Turner, the Jockey Club's chief medical officer. "I have often heard jockeys say that they are just getting warmed up by the second race — hopefully this will be a thing of the past now."

Change of step

THE Princess of Wales's daily battle with photographers and admirers at the Harbour Club in Chelsea may finally have driven her to look for somewhere else to tone her thighs. Earlier this week she was spotted sniffing around a rival establishment, Holmes Place Health Club, in Ealing.

In the past the Harbour Club proved fertile ground for the Princess to meet members of the opposite sex. It is where she enjoyed post-workout fruit juices with Will Carling and Christopher Whalley, the property developer.

Staff at Holmes Place, perhaps underwhelmed by the prospect of a camp of freelance photographers setting up outside, were reluctant to discuss the Princess yesterday.

Straight Man

OFFSTAGE alarm on the Isle of Man at plans for the first production of a play by Joe Orton. Although the Manx Parliament relaxed its stiff laws on homosexuality four years ago, many citizens are still horrified at any mention of the subject. The proposal by the Joe Orton Society to present *Entertaining Mr Sloane* has not gone down well.

"I think an Orton play would be received very badly here," says the Bishop of Sodor and Man, the Right Rev Noel Jones. Risqué theatre has not had a happy history on the island. Ten years ago the High Bailiff banned *Steaming*, a play for an all-female cast by Nell Dunn set inside a Turkish bath.

X-rated

LADY COGGAN, the doughty wife of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Coggan, is prompting some furious soul-searching among residents of Winchester over plans to retain three stone crosses on a cinema being converted from a disused church. The diet of 18-rated films planned for the picture house are deemed unsuitable. "Christians hold the cross in deep reverence and we shall be very sad to see it used falsely in our splendid city with all its church history and background," says Lady Coggan. The dispute looks set to get bitter. The church is Grade II listed and English Heritage sides with the cinema company.

Coggan: fighting spirit

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HILLARY AND CHERIE

Labour lessons from the Washington jury room

Americans were treated last night to the shocking spectacle of a First Lady subpoenaed to give evidence before her peers. This was not the Republican-dominated Senate Whitewater committee but a grand jury, the beginning of a criminal procedure. Although the jurors are more likely than not to have Democrat sympathies, that may not comfort Mrs Clinton very much. Whatever evidence is presented against the woman once dubbed "Saint Hillary", her unprecedented position in the dock cannot be separated from her anomalous position in the White House. The repercussions do not stop on the Atlantic's far shores.

When Mrs Clinton — a highly successful lawyer and, by repute, cleverer than her husband — first started to campaign nationally at his side, she seemed to many younger American women as a perfect role model. This First Lady would be allowed to do more than smile at the cameras, show off her floral arrangements or work on personnel issues behind the scenes. This was to be a working partnership — "buy one, get one free" in her husband's words. Some Americans voting for Bill Clinton did so at least as much on Hillary's behalf.

He was true to his word, even if he had to tone down the partnership message in the course of the campaign. Hillary was given one of America's knottiest problems to unravel: the provision of healthcare. While feminists cheered, more cautious souls foresaw the perils. A wife cannot be sacked; and even if she decides to "spend more time with her family", that puts no more distance between her and the levers of power.

Mrs Clinton's attempt to emulate her heroine, Eleanor Roosevelt, were disastrous. The healthcare plan, conceived in secret, was quickly revealed as unworkable. Then began another of Hillary's regular reinventions: as mother, ambassador and "First Lady of Hearts". That was soon scuppered by more revelations about old Arkansas business deals, alleged cover-ups and favouring of cronies for White House contracts, which led finally to yesterday's grand jury appearance. Mrs Clinton's hypocrisy has contributed solidly to her fate. She and her husband campaigned against the excess profit culture of the Eighties yet unaccountably managed to convert $1,000 to $100,000 in the space of nine months. They campaigned against sleaze: yet she had worked for a savings and loan institution involved in disreputable property deals and may have been less than frank about exactly how much work she did. They claimed to stand up for those who worked hard and played by the rules, yet she sacked seven well-regarded members of the White House travel office and replaced them with friends and relations.

But the hostility towards her has been compounded by the unease which many Americans feel about a First Lady being both a career woman and a political adviser to her husband. This is what must alarm Cherie Blair. If Tony Blair becomes Prime Minister, Britain will experience the same step-change that took place in Washington. Out will go the wife who loves charity and opera; in will come a former parliamentary candidate, campaigner for equal rights and successful lawyer. The parallels should make anyone wary.

Of course Mrs Blair — or Ms Booth as she likes to be known — has been found guilty neither of hypocrisy nor sleaze. And in Britain's parliamentary system, it would be hard for her husband to give her as much political power as Mr Clinton gave his wife. Nor does she seem to want it. But potential pitfalls abound. Under the "cab-rank" principle which governs barristers' briefs, there would be occasions when even her legal practice provided embarrassments.

The world has changed, and Britain will have to come to terms with Prime Ministers' wives having careers. But, as the first of her kind, Ms Booth would come under great pressure and be subject to criticism however much or little she says. This is unfortunate but probably unavoidable. Ms Booth may be asked to blaze a trail for her successors — and through prickly branches.

PRIMARY POWER

Tests and vouchers should improve standards

The state of our schools has been thrown into sharper relief after a week which can leave few feeling complacent. The electorate has been left with an enduring impression of Labour's incoherence; but there is little room for Tory satisfaction when 16 years of reform still leaves half of our 11-year-olds unable to reach the required standard in English and maths. The failure rests not with our children but with methods of managing schools and teaching pupils that need, not stability, but still more radical change.

Parents nostalgic for traditional practice, and teachers stretched by innovation, might yearn for a period of consolidation. That would be an abdication of responsibility towards the children whom the system fails.

Were it not for one bitterly contested change, the tests themselves, we would still be ignorant of how poorly served pupils are. The self-interest of the teachers who opposed the tests does not make it easy to sympathise with the profession; but because many were wrong in the past that does not mean they are all in error now. Their suggestions for refining the examinations deserve attention if a successful innovation is to become entrenched. Tests not only diagnose failure, they can help to remedy it. Improved results in the longer-established tests for seven and 14-year-olds proves what any honest teacher has to admit: examinations concentrate minds and scrutiny improves standards.

That insight should inform the next step Gillian Shephard must take. She should ignore the bleatings of head teachers and publish primary league tables. John Redwood has well argued how that would make it easier to judge all schools fairly. Gauging the quality of a school intakes and measuring any subsequent change could allow parents to see what improves performance at each stage. Best practice would be better identified and emulated.

What constitutes best practice may still be a battleground. But it seems unlikely that the evidence will give comfort to the progressive theorists whose spirit still stalks our university and college departments of education. Harriet Harman and Tony Blair have demonstrated what every good parent knows. A school which teaches traditionally, puts pupils in uniform and has ordered classes, whatever their size, is the best guarantee of a good education.

The other guarantee is an early start. *Counting to Five*, a report published yesterday by the Audit Commission, argues that nursery education can radically improve children's performance at school. Unfortunately, with nursery provision so patchy, access to this advantage is, according to the Audit Commission, almost a lottery.

The most effective way of ensuring that new provision emerges and existing nurseries are kept effective is to empower parents. The Government's nursery voucher scheme will make it easier for demand to be satisfied in areas where local authorities have abdicated their responsibilities. It will also encourage the competition which drives down costs and raises standards.

To invest in pupils, not the system, is to encourage diversity and excellence in pre-school education. That is a lesson too important to be restricted to the nursery. If standards are to be driven upwards, the engine of change has to be informed parental choice. Ministers should hasten to give parents, through tests and vouchers, as much power as possible now: a future government could reverse the revolution.

GREY POLAR BEARS

Forget the sunbelt: find a bracing old age in Essex

The Essex coast, it seems, is scheduled to become the new Florida. As our health correspondent reports on page 8, the United Kingdom's first retirement laager for veterans of the Third Age is to be built there. Like similar "sun cities" in Florida and South Africa, it is to be exclusively for those stroked as grey panthers by estate agents' euphemism.

So it will have hundreds of "close-care apartments", a large nursing home, a 70-bed hospital, shops and services of all sorts, and a "therapeutic golf course for the mature golfer". Electric rakes by the bunkers? Shrimping-nets to retrieve balls? Inhabitants need never leave Thorpe Hall again on two feet. And if they were to venture into the world outside, the nearest town for all ages is Frinton-on-Sea, which bans fish-and-chip shops and may be rather less lively than this new "lifetime care" complex at Thorpe le Soken.

Whether the Utopian idea of happy-valley ghettos will catch on in Britain is going to be tested. As many 80-year-old Britons as Americans may feel like 20-year-olds. But the British grey wolves may prefer to have some 20-year-olds around. To judge from cruises and blue-rinse bus tours, the British in their maturity are less team-players than Americans. Although, sadly, increasing numbers of our old are increasingly shut away out of sight, out of mind, in nursing homes, the British ideal is still to try to keep the seven ages of man together, to take in the other ages' baby-sitting, spectacle-searching and changing of the video.

And the choice of Essex for Britain's first sun city may be surprising to some. The weathermen may calculate that East Anglia receives more than the national average of sunshine under its Constable skies. But all East Coast resorts face facts as well as the North Sea. Some even advertise themselves as "bracing", with pictures of ruddy fishermen in oilskins and sou'westers. As a poet once advised outsiders, "the bleak flat, sedgy shores of Essex shun, Where fog perpetual veils the winter sun". Unkind, and only partially true.

Thorpe le Soken does not have the blue seas and cloudless skies of Cloud-Cuckoo-Land. But Florida sun causes wrinkles, and worse: those who would not be called wrinklies, beware. Essex weather refreshes the juices better than withering sun. From Dickens to Graham Swift, from Essex thatches and flint towers to the roaring North Sea shingle, Essex men and women have a reputation for longevity and red-faced stubbornness. The county is a fine choice for our first sun city. But as a precaution, the residents should take their thermal leg-warmers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Failure to tackle global warming

From Dr R. Russell Jones

Sir, The findings of the British Antarctic Survey (report, January 25), that over half the Antarctic ice sheets have disintegrated during the past 50 years, provides further evidence of global warming and verifies the computer models which match current temperature trends precisely and predict far greater changes in the next century.

Worldwide, 1995 was the hottest year on record. Yet society's response to these events is curiously ambivalent: Water companies claim that severe droughts are freak occurrences which are only expected to occur once every 300 years. In fact they will become increasingly common. The UK Government argues unsuccessfully for a 10 per cent reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, whilst failing to admit that a reduction of over 60 per cent is needed just to stabilise atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide.

In Coventry (reports, January 18; letter, January 24) the Church celebrates 100 years of the motor car, the fastest-growing contributor to global warming, and possibly the single greatest threat to God's creation.

The ecosystems which sustain life are extremely vulnerable, and our priorities will need to change radically if they are to survive.

Yours faithfully,
R. RUSSELL JONES,
St Thomas' Hospital,
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1.
January 25.

Monetary union

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, The Spanish Foreign Minister, Carlos Westendorp, who was chairman of the Reflection Group which prepared the way for this year's intergovernmental conference (IGC), has said that it would be ill-advised to proceed with the 1999 timetable for economic and monetary union (report, January 24). If the timetable does have to be revised then that will require amending the Maastricht treaty (as will the change of name from ecu to euro and any changes to the ERM).

It is therefore important that we include the whole question of economic and monetary union in the forthcoming White Paper on the IGC (report, January 24). It would be extraordinary if we did not declare the principles behind our opt-out on the single currency, given the fact that the purpose of the single currency is to create political union — an objective the Prime Minister has already rejected.

Señor Westendorp said last year that every aspect of the Community can be renegotiated at the IGC. In addition to the single currency, agriculture, fisheries, the budget and the European Court should head the agenda and therefore also be addressed in the White Paper.

Our present problems stem from the fact that at Maastricht we allowed the other member states to go ahead with a legal framework which we agreed we would not veto. We must not make the same mistake again. The White Paper must provide the basis for a serious debate on this country's national interests and how they can best be served. Without this and without a proper renegotiation of Maastricht we will be left with uncertainty and instability, which will be in nobody's interests.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CASH (Chairman),
The European Foundation,
61 Pall Mall, SW1.

Living languages

From Mr Norman Berdichevsky

Sir, Your editorial, "Silent thunder" (January 17), contrasts Esperanto — "without a people to sustain it . . . the property of a few" — with the proud struggle of the Welsh people to preserve their language.

The latest census study in 1991 reports that almost 550,000 people are able *either* to speak, read or write Welsh (*A Geography of the Welsh Language 1961-1991*, J. Aitchison and H. Carter, University of Wales Press, 1994).

This accounts for the fact that Welsh does not appear in the lists of the principal languages of the world published every year in *The World Almanac and Book of Facts* (Scripps Howard). This same reference work has consistently listed Esperanto and recently upped its estimate of users from one to two million.

The failure to acknowledge Esperanto as a living language is particularly glaring in the English-speaking world precisely because English has, as you put it, "helped to sweep so many other languages out of the way".

Esperanto is a non-ethnic and non-territorial language, and therefore not very visible, but it is sustained by an international community of speakers who have diffused it throughout the world over 100 years. Esperanto is alive and growing, especially in China, Japan and Korea, which may account for the myopic view frequently expressed in Britain that it has "failed".

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN BERDICHEVSKY,
69 Methuen Road,
Edgware, Middlesex.
January 18.

Understanding forgiveness, and trying to practise it

From Canon Paul Oestreicher

Sir, Does Matthew Parris (article, January 22) really want to know "how on earth" to practise forgiveness? There are more than enough examples. Nor do Christians have any monopoly. Like others, they often fail to practise what they preach.

Forgiveness is the banishing of bitterness for wrongs *suffered* and the refusal to pay back evil with evil. It has nothing to do with the banishing of memory. "Forgive *and forget*" is no Christian slogan. "Remember and forgive" is.

For Christians, Jesus sets the pattern in praying for his own executioners: "Father forgive them . . ." This was the response of Gordon Wilson when IRA killers murdered his daughter. This was the response of Dr Sheila Cassidy to her Chilean torturers. Forgiveness, offered and sought, in small things and great, is the love-bond that holds marriages together. Forgiveness does not condone evil, but refuses to be embittered by it. It breaks the vicious circle of hate.

The "hurt" file is indeed "not open for edit", but the victim's bloodstream need not be poisoned by it. The recognition of our need to forgive was, this week, at the heart of the prayer of 13-year-old Unity Lawrence (report, January 23) at the memorial service for her murdered father: "May we find the strength to overcome anger with love." Hard, yes, but possible and liberating.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL OESTREICHER
(Director of International Ministry,
Coventry Cathedral),
7 Priory Row,
Coventry, West Midlands.
January 25.

From Mr Richard Ritchie

Sir, In his strictures upon the Christian concept of forgiveness Matthew Parris is coming perilously close to that mortal sin of columnists, which is to parade their ignorance — or, as he describes it "guesswork" — in order to indulge their prejudices.

In fact, Christian forgiveness is not difficult to understand. It means that, however much someone has wronged you and however much you may wish never to see him again, you still pray for his soul. It is not for us to consign *anyone to Hell*.

That does not mean you have to like everyone, invite them to supper, or even not punish them when necessary; simply "to pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death". Often not easy; but reasonably straightforward.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RITCHIE,
36 Dault Road,
Wandsworth, SW18.
January 22.

From Mr Peter Robinson

Sir, I heard recently of a little girl who had had to have both legs amputated. When asked by the surgeon whether she could forgive him, the girl nodded.

Matthew Parris's article made no reference to anyone's *need* for forgiveness. He has sought to illustrate the defects of Christianity. Perhaps all he has done is to highlight the poverty of his own emotional and spiritual life.

Yours sincerely,
PETER ROBINSON,
Vallecito, Fir Tree Close,
Coppenhall, Staffordshire.
January 23.

From Mr Harry Creswell

Sir, Matthew Parris is quite correct when he implies that the act of forgiveness is something very difficult to achieve. Only God has the power and grace to release us from our sins.

However, when we hurt or offend others we can either "make up" (forgive) or bear resentment, holding on to the slight against us. The former is more likely to lead to peace and happiness for both parties. Is not this, therefore, the better and more gracious course of action and is this not what is meant by forgiving one another? For, unless we do, I believe that God cannot forgive us.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY CRESWELL,
Warren Wood,
Wimland Road, Faygate, Sussex.
January 23.

From Mr Richard Gunning

Sir, Christians are not required to *like* their enemies, nor to *forget* wrongs done. No person is that perfect, or stupid. Christians are, though, expected to refrain from retaliation, seek reconciliation (where allowed) and not keep score.

Of course, all Christians fall short of these ideals, for which they need ongoing forgiveness. Mr Parris may also be forgiven for getting it wrong.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD GUNNING,
38 Sprucedale Gardens,
Wallington, Surrey.
January 24.

From Mr Nigel Draper

Sir, Matthew Parris says his attitude is "let bygones be bygones" and yet he finishes by telling of his reluctance to make contact with a neglected friend because of a "small but signal hurt" from a few decades ago. What a difference to the Gospel of Jesus who says "I stand at the door and knock" (Revelation iii, 20), and waits for you Matthew — no reluctance on his part even though you continually hurt him. That is forgiveness.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL DRAPER,
Flat 3, San Remo Mansions,
San Remo Parade,
Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.
January 23.

Union stakes in new Labour society

From Mr Robert Harvey

Sir, John Monks ("The TUC's stake in Mr Blair", January 17) is looking forward to a Tony Blair government which will help to rebuild the unions' influence, in order to "make this country more competitive, community-minded and caring".

These are presumably the same unions whose "competitiveness" nearly bled the printing industry to death ten years ago (having already succeeded in doing so with the car industry), and whose "community spirit" and "caring" nature in the 1970s left the dead unburied and the lights flickering for only three days a week.

Of course, I'm forgetting, that was a long time ago, and they've completely changed. Frankly, I agree with Gillian Shephard, whom you quote on the same day, that the only thing to have changed would be the substitution of smoked salmon and dry white wine for beer and sandwiches at No 10.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARVEY,
Forest House, Birmingham Road,
Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire.
January 17.

From Professor Roger Dyson

Sir, The answer to the questions raised on your letters page (January 5, 11, 13, 17) as to the meaning of Tony Blair's "stakeholder society" is, in my view, factual and quite straightforward.

John Prescott has pledged to make the dismissal of workers during industrial action an offence of unfair dismissal (report, April 29, 1995). This will rapidly destroy what strength exists in the British economy and demonstrates the pre-eminence that trade unions will acquire in the stakeholder society.

If strikers know that they have to be taken back, annual pay strikes will rapidly increase and employers will have no alternative but to pay the wages, increase their prices and move us back into spiralling inflation. The Governor of the Bank of England is right to continue to refer to this causal relationship (report, Business, January 6) — he has an eye on the future.

Even dismissals will become virtually impossible. When an employee is on notice of dismissal his colleagues can simply go on strike until he is reinstated. The inability to dismiss (a characteristic of the worst industrial relations of the 1970s) will prove even more damaging than the annual wage strikes and will clearly damage productivity.

If Tony Blair does not withdraw this commitment there will only be one stakeholder in his "new Labour" society: organised labour.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER DYSON
(Director,
Clinical Management Unit),
Suite 1, 18 Darwin Building,
Keele University,
Keele, Staffordshire.
January 19.

Ducks and cormorants

From Mr Peter Giffard

Sir, There is a good deal of confusion about the ruddy duck (letter, January 22). Not everyone sees it as a pest to be exterminated. I have visitors here on open days who go for a walk around the lake created by Capability Brown and come back and ask what is the lovely little duck with the blue beak. Some people only come in order to see them. They are not bird experts but ordinary townspeople here to enjoy the countryside.

I wish English Nature and the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Minister of Agriculture would get together and give as much consideration to the plight of the fish in my lake as they have been to the white-headed duck.

The lake has never been stocked with fish, at least to my knowledge, but the ancestors of the present fish could go back 200 years or more. In modern jargon I think of them as part of my heritage.

The anglers who fish the lake have, in the past, had tremendous catches. But not now. The fish have been decimated by an invasion of cormorants. A licence to shoot three every month "as an aid to scaring" is not a satisfactory solution, but that is all that the Minister of Agriculture will allow.

I have, therefore, decided that if English Nature want to come and shoot my ruddy duck, they must first shoot ten cormorants for every duck. I generally have three pairs of ruddy duck: so, hopefully, I shall rid myself of the 60 cormorants which have been plaguing my fish this winter.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GIFFARD,
Chillington Hall, Codsall Wood,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands.

Austen and Saltram

From Mr Chris Viveash

Sir, Jane Austen had a connection with Saltram House in Devon long before the filming there of *Sense and Sensibility* (report and leading article, January 22).

In December 1815 Miss Austen instructed her publisher, John Murray, to forward a presentation copy of her new novel *Emma* to the Countess of Morley at Saltram. As she had never met the countess, there is a mystery surrounding the gesture.

The 1st Earl of Morley (1772-1840), formerly Lord Boringdon, was an interesting man. He had two wives, each of them credited with having written one or more of Jane Austen's novels. (It will be remembered that Jane Austen's name never appeared on the title-page during her lifetime).

Lady Augusta Paget, who had been the earl's first wife, was believed by Princess Charlotte to have written *Sence and Sencibility* (sic): and his second wife, Frances Talbot, was thought by Mary Russell Mitford to have written *Pride and Prejudice*. Saltram House is appropriate, indeed, as a film location for an Austen novel.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS VIVEASH,
2 Roman Crescent,
Swindon, Wiltshire.
January 22.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Sport on TV

From Mr R. R. Kimpton

Sir, Why now allow the BBC to advertise during sports programmes (report, January 18), restricting the use of the revenue raised to the financing of further sports programmes?

Objections to BBC advertising relating to the integrity of the programme content would not apply to sporting events, and the danger of a resultant surfeit of sport may be less of a problem than an increase in the licence fee.

Yours faithfully,
REG KIMPTON,
Clifton House,
67 London Road,
Whitchurch, Hampshire.
January 18.

From Mr Anthony Morris

Sir, Will the Government, in the current debate as to whether pay-per-view and subscription television should be allowed to bid and charge for the rights to certain sporting events, also consider prohibiting the sale of tickets at the gate?

In my opinion such extension of the principle of free access is no more illogical than the extension of the box office by means of television, which will eventually inject sufficient money to provide training facilities and attract players of a quality that will enable this country to win international events, perhaps even cricket.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MORRIS,
High Rising,
Pedn-Moran, St Mawes, Cornwall.
January 22.

From Mr D. F. L. Pritchard

Sir, If we are to be charged a £5 "sports levy" on the BBC licence fee, will those many of us who do not care about sport and dislike losing other programmes to it, or having them delayed, be awarded a £5 compensation?

Yours etc,
DONALD F. L. PRITCHARD,
68 Evendons Lane,
Wokingham, Berkshire.
January 18.

Sports letters, page 42

Growing problem

From His Honour Judge John Bishop

Sir, I have just returned from an evening at the theatre. Yet again, my view of a large part of the stage was obscured by the person sitting in front of me.

Looking back, I find that, these days, my view is nearly always blocked to some extent, and conclude that this is further evidence that people are generally bigger than they used to be (for example, when the theatres were built and their seating installed).

One looks at the size of current international rugby players, compared to those, say, 15 years ago, to see the best example, but this is another.

Soon it will be necessary for theatres to do something about it, if we are to receive proper value for the price of our tickets.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BISHOP
(5ft 11in),
High Down,
1 Woodgavil, Banstead, Surrey.
January 20.

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK

January 26: By Command of The Queen, Vice Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Rabindranath Permanand at 42 Belgrave Square, London SW1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in London.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by His Exellency Mr James Cowling (High Commissioner in Maseru) at the State Funeral of King Moshoeshoe II which was held at Thaba Bosiu this morning.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

January 26: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning opened the new Venture Centre, Water Lane, Cromford, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire (Mr John Bather).

His Royal Highness, President, Business in the Community, afterwards visited Cromford Mill to view restoration work, to see how alternative uses are being found for parts of the old mill buildings and to launch Business in the Community's Mills Initiative.

Royal engagements

TOMORROW: The Prince of Wales, as Vice-President of the National Trust, will join Mrs Rosemary Verey in delivering a lecture about the garden at Highgrove and will attend a reception at Buxton Opera House, Buxton, Derbyshire, at 7.00 in aid of the National Trust in the Peak District.

The Duchess of Kent will present the *Evening Standard* British Film awards at the Savoy Hotel at 7.05.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00

Tomorrow

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00. The Queen's Guard mounts at Buckingham Palace at 11.30.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr Mohamed Al Fayed, chairman, Harrods, 63; Professor Gillian Beer, President, Clare Hall, Cambridge, 61; Mr N.R. Bomford, Head Master, Harrow School, 57; Sir Wilfrid Bourne, QC, former Clerk of the Crown in Chancery and permanent secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, 74; Mr Jack Brymer, clarinettist, 81; Mr John Bury, designer, 71; Mr Michael Collins, clarinettist, 34; Sir Kenneth Corfield, former chairman, STC, 72; Mrs Mairead Corrigan-Maguire, Nobel laureate, 52; Baroness Cumberlege, 53; His Honour Lord Dunboyne, 79; Sir John Eccles, neurologist, 93; Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Elworthy, former Captain of The Queen's Flight, 58; the Right Rev H.D. Halsey, former Bishop of Carlisle, 77; Mr A H Harper, chairman, Baltic Exchange, 53; Brigadier Rita Hennessy, former matron-in-chief, QARANC, 63; Mr John Hopkins, writer, 65; Viscount Lifford, 47; Señor Federico Mayor Zaragoza, director-general, UNESCO, 62; Lord Merrivale, 79 Mr Alan Milburn, MP, 38; Miss Nina Milkina, pianist, 77; Mr Julian Ogilvie Thompson, chairman, De Beers, 62; Baroness Rawlings, 57; Lord Rix, 72; Mr Roger Sims, MP, 66; Sir Donald Spiers, former controller Aircraft, MOD, 62; Mr Neville Trotter, MP, 64; Mr Geoffrey Tucker, political consultant, 71; Sir William van Straubenzee, former MP, 72; Lord Vinson, 65

TOMORROW: Mr M.J. Ainsworth, chief executive, Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, 49; Mr Alan Alda, actor, 60; Mr Mikhail Baryshnikov, ballet dancer and actor, 48; Mrs Valerie Bragg, Principal, City Technology College, Kingshurst, Birmingham, 49; Mr James Callaghan, MP, 69; Miss Enid Castle, Principal, Cheltenham Ladies' College, 60; Sir Oliver Chesterton, chartered surveyor, 83; Mr James Cran, MP, 52; Mr John Edmonds, trade unionist, 52; Mr M.G. Falcon, former chairman, Norwich Union Insurance Group, 68; Mr Glyn Ford, MEP, 46; Sir Anthony Garner, former director of organization, Conservative Central Office, 69; Professor Sir Henry Harris, former professor of medicine, 71; Mr J.D. Hughes, former Principal, Ruskin College, Oxford, 69; Mr Bill Jordan, trade unionist, 60; Sir Timothy Kitson, former MP, 66; Mr Alfred Marks, actor and comedian, 75; the Rev David Murris, MEP, 66; Mr Gordon Prentice, MP, 45; Mr Nick Raynsford, MP, 51; Mr Gareth Roscoe, Legal Adviser to the BBC, 48; Mr Ronnie Scott, jazz musician, 69; Major-General Martin Sinnatt, former secretary, Kennel Club, 68; Sir Trevor Skeet, MP, 78; Professor John Tavener, composer, 52; Mr David Thompson, former chairman, Gestetner Holdings, 64; the Rev B.R. White, former Principal, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 62; the Very Rev James Whyte, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 76; Lord Windlesham, 64.

Anniversaries

TODAY

BIRTHS: Richard Bentley, scholar and controversialist, Oulton, near Leeds, 1662; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer, Saltzburg, 1756; Samuel Palmer, landscape painter, London, 1805; Lewis Carroll (pseudonym of Charles Dodgson), writer, Daresbury, Cheshire, 1832; William II, German Emperor 1888-1918, Berlin, 1859.

DEATHS: Sir William Temple, statesman, Moor Park, Farnham, Surrey, 1699; Philip Astley, theatre manager, Paris, 1814; Johann Gottlieb Fichte, philosopher, Berlin, 1814; Samuel Hood, 1st Viscount Hood, admiral, Greenwich, 1816; John James Audubon, naturalist and artist, New York, 1851; John Gibson, sculptor, Rome, 1866; Giuseppe Verdi, composer, Milan, 1901; Giovanni Verga, novelist and dramatist, Catania, Sicily, 1922; Mahalia Jackson, gospel singer, Chicago, 1972.

The first public demonstration of television by John Logie Baird, London, 1926.

Leningrad (now St Petersburg) was relieved after a siege of three years, 1944.

American action in Vietnam ended, 1973.

TOMORROW

BIRTHS: King Henry VII, reigned 1485-1509, Pembroke Castle, 1457; Giovanni Borelli, mathematician and astronomer, Naples, 1608; Charles George Gordon, general, London, 1833; Sir Henry Stanley, explorer and journalist, Denbigh, 1841; William Seward Burroughs, pioneer of adding machines, New York, 1855; Artur Rubinstein, pianist, Lodz, Poland, 1886; Jackson Pollock, expressionist painter, Cody, Wyoming, 1912; Harry Corbett, puppeteer and entertainer, Bradford, 1918.

DEATHS: Charlemagne, Holy Roman Emperor 800-814, Aachen, Germany, 814; King Henry VIII, reigned 1509-47, Greenwich, 1547; Sir Francis Drake, navigator and pirate, Porto Bello, West Indies, 1596; Sir Thomas Bodley, diplomat and founder of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, London, 1612; William Burke, body-snatcher, executed in Edinburgh, 1829; Sir Joseph Barnby, composer, London, 1896; William Butler Yeates, poet and dramatist, Nobel laureate 1923, Billy Fury, singer, London, 1983.

The American space shuttle *Challenger* exploded shortly after lift-off from Cape Canaveral, 1986.

PETER NICHOLLS

Omar Sharif at the finals yesterday of the MacAllan International Pairs Bridge Championships at the White House Hotel, northwest London

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Steven Lee, Priest-in-Charge, Kibworth: to be also Priest-in-Charge, Foxton and Gumley (Leicester).

The Rev Alvin Marcetti, Chaplain at London Guildhall University: to be Chaplain of Homerton Hospital, Hackney (London).

The Rev David Marsh, Vicar, Trentham: to be Priest-in-Charge, Alstonefield, Butterton, Warslow w. Elkstone and Wetton (Lichfield).

The Rev Neil Maxted, Curate, St Saviour, Folkestone (Canterbury): to be a Royal Army Chaplain.

The Rev Robin Murch, Vicar, Queenborough (Canterbury): to be also an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

The Rev John Record, Vicar, Hawkhurst (Canterbury): to be also an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

The Rev Linda Shipton, Chaplain to the Northern General Hospital NHS Trust, Sheffield: to be Chaplain to the Queen Mary, Sidcup NHS Trust (Rochester).

Rev David Silvester, Team Vicar, St Margaret w. St Patrick (Chelmsford): to be Vicar, St Jude & St Paul, Mildmay Grove (London).

The Rev Clive Slaughter, Rector, Thorley: to be also Rural Dean of Bishop's Stortford (St Albans).

The Rev Kevin Smith, Assistant Curate, Worksop Priory (Southwell): to be Vicar, St Hugh of Lincoln, New Cantley, Doncaster (Sheffield).

The Rev Robert Stapleton, Vicar, New Shildon (Durham): to be Rector, Stoke Albany w. Wilbarston and Ashley w. Weston-by-Welland and Sutton Bassett (Peterborough).

The Rev Terence Swinhoe, Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Warley: to be Vicar, St Matthew's, Rastrick (Wakefield).

The Rev David Trustram, Vicar, Tenterden St Mildred w. Smallhythe (Canterbury): to be also an Honorary Canon of Canterbury Cathedral.

The Rev Christopher Van Straaten, Curate, St John, Woodley (Oxford): to be Vicar, St Augustine, Gillingham (Rochester).

The Rev Canon James Wellington, Vicar, Glen Magna cum Stretton Magna and Wistow cum Newton Harcourt: to be also Rural Dean of Gartree II (Leicester).

Luncheons

Carmen's Company

Mr G. Golder, Master of the Carmen's Company, assisted by Mr J.M.B. Gotch, Senior Warden, and Mr J.E. Ratcliff, Junior Warden, presided at the annual charity luncheon held yesterday at Haberdashers' Hall. The Master, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach and the Right Rev W.J.D. Down also spoke.

Newspaper Conference

The Speaker was the guest of honour and speaker at the annual luncheon of the Newspaper Conference held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr John Hipwood, chairman of the conference, presided.

Service dinners

Royal Marines

The January 1946 Batch dined out at the Army and Navy Club last night to mark the 50th anniversary of their joining the Corps.

There were present:

Mr Peter Golsworthy, Professor Martin Hattersley, Colonel Arthur Jackson, Major John Lloyd, Major Nigel Martin, Mr Gerard Noel, Mr John Spencer and Major-General Peter Spurgeon.

Academy of Experts

Mr Michael Cohen, Chairman of the Academy of Experts, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at The Lanesborough, to mark the appointment of Mr Daniel Fung, QC, Solicitor General of Hong Kong, as vice-president of the academy.

HAC

Lieutenant-General S. Cowan was the principal guest at the annual dinner of Signal Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, held last night at Armoury House. Major D.P. Gordon, Squadron Commander, presided. Lieutenant J.A. Bowman also spoke.

Dinners

Architects and Surveyors Institute

The Lord Mayor of Westminster was present last night when Sir Gerard Vaughan, MP, Honorary Fellow of the Architects and Surveyors Institute, entertained the London region and their guests, The Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, at their annual dinner held last night at the House of Commons. Mr Kenneth G. Whittick, Chairman of the London region, presided. Mr Tom Barton, associate director of the fund, Mr William Franklyn, capatin of the charity's showbiz cricket team, and Mr Peter Aldis also spoke.

Parc Prison Charity

Sir John Woodcock, QPM, gave an address at a dinner last evening for the Parc Prison Charity, at the Court Colman Hotel, Bridgend. The High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, Mr Byron Butler, presided. Judge Roderick Evans, QC, Mr John Wilkinson (regional director, HM Prison Service) and Mrs Barbara Ladbrooke, DL, also spoke.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.J.B. Dawe-Lane and Miss K.H. Ferry

The engagement is announced between Nigel James Beauchamp, third son of Mr and Mrs John Dawe-Lane, of Holcombe, Somerset, and Katherine Hester, daughter of the late Brigadier Peter Ferry and of Mrs Ferry, of Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire.

Mr N.H.E. Durlacher and Miss S.E. Wade

The engagement is announced between Noel, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Durlacher, of Kensington, London, and Sophie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Wade, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

Mr R. Fisher and Miss L.R. Howard

The engagement is announced between Roy, son of Mrs Gwen Fisher, of Coseley, Staffordshire, and the late Mr Ernest Fisher, and Linda, younger daughter of Mr John Howard and the late Mrs Eileen Howard, of Oadby, Leicestershire.

Mr N.P. Gerrard and Miss N.J. Goodacre

The engagement is announced between Nicholas Paul, younger son of the late Brian and Dilys Gerrard, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, and Nicola Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs Selwyn Goodacre, of Woodville, South Derbyshire. The marriage will take place on June 21, 1996.

Mr S.G. Hellman and Miss C.T. Carrington

The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Mr Geoffrey Hellman, of Brighton, East Sussex, and of Mrs Carole Hellman, of Cranleigh, Surrey, and Caroline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Carrington, of Link Hills, Natal, South Africa.

Mr J.D. Hepworth and Miss C.E. Poad

The engagement is announced between Jeremy, only son of the Rev and Mrs Michael Hepworth, of Sheffield, and Clare, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Poad, of Cookham Dean, Berkshire.

Mr P.W. Lattimer and Miss K.E. McPherson

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs D.A. Lattimer, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.I. McPherson, of Hagley, Worcestershire.

Captain W.D. Perks and Miss Y.D. Matthews

The engagement is announced between William, son of Mr and Mrs Derrick Perks, of Stourbridge, West Midlands, and Yvette, daughter of the late Mr William Matthews and of Mrs Gwen Bennett, of Branston, Staffordshire.

Mr G.J. Powlesland and Miss L. Graham-Vivian

The engagement is announced between Gregory, eldest son of Mr J. Powlesland, of Brightlingsea, Essex and the late Mrs Rita Powlesland, and Lavinia, daughter of Mrs R. Graham-Vivian and the late Mr H.R. Graham-Vivian, of Bosahan, Cornwall.

Mr D.B. Rawlinson and Miss C. Tagg

The engagement is announced between Duncan, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Rawlinson, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Caroline, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Frederick Tagg, of Aston-on-Trent, Derbyshire.

Mr A.H.C. Thomas and Miss T.M.G. Gray

The engagement is announced between Adam, son of Mr Keri and Mrs Jennifer Thomas, of Hampshire, and Tamara, daughter of Mr Anthony Gray, of London, and the late Lady Lana Gray.

Marriage

The Hon Richard Clark and Mrs O. Gregory

A service of blessing was held on January 25, 1996, in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster, after the marriage of the Hon Richard Clark, eldest son of Lord and Lady Clark of Kempston, and Mrs Sue Gregory, wife of the late Oliver Gregory and younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Haslam. Canon Donald Gray officiated.

Memorial service

Sir Fred Warner

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Viscount Long at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Fred Warner, Ambassador to Japan and Conservative MEP, held on Thursday at St Peter's, Kensington Park Road. Princess Alexandra was represented by Major Sir Peter Clarke.

The Rev Andrew Watson officiated. Mr Orlando Warner, son, read his father's poem *Spiders* and Mr Valentine Warner, son, read William Blake's *Ah! Sun-flower, Weary of Time*. Lady Antonia Pinter read from T.S. Eliot's *East Coker*.

The Marchioness of Anglesey and Mr Robert Cooper paid tribute. Mr Robert Kee gave an address.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs was represented by Sir John Margetson, special representative. The Ambassador of Japan and Mme Fujii attended. Among others present were:

Lady Warner (widow), Miss Alexa de Ferranti (stepdaughter), Mr John Corson and Dr Margaret Corson (half-brother and sister-in-law), Mrs Peter Corson (half-sister-in-law), Mr Timothy and Lady Celestria Hales, Mr and Mrs Sinclair Hood, Mr Christopher Corson, Mrs E Warner and other members of the family.

Ambassador K Chiba, the Marquess of Queensberry, the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, the Marquess and Marchioness of Douro, the Countess of Airlie, the Earl of Uxbridge, Earl Jellicoe, Viscount and Viscountess Runciman of Doxford, Viscountess Stuart of Findhorn, Viscount and Viscountess Norwich, Viscountess Chaplin, Viscountess Hambleden.

The Dowager Lady Hesketh, Lord Egremont, the Dowager Lady Egremont, Lord and Lady Annan, Lady Gore-Booth, Lord and Lady Rothschild, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM, and Lady Jenkins, Lady Weidenfeld, Lord Tugendhat, Baroness Hooper, Lady Dorothy Heber-Percy, Sir Nicholas and Lady Phillips, the Hon Mrs Michael Astor, the Hon Mrs Alan Hare, the Hon Mrs Forbes Adam, the Hon Lady de Zulueta, the Hon Simon Head, the Hon Mrs David Bathurst, the Hon Sir Peter Ramsbotham.

Sir John and the Hon Lady Riddell, Sir Ian and Lady Rankin, Sir Peter Petrie, Sir William Bell, Sir John and Lady Whitehead, Lady Scott-Hopkins, Sir Richard Evans, Lady (Michael) Stewart, Sir Nicholas and Lady Henderson, Lady (Anthony) Clarke, Sir Sydney Giffard, Sir Peter and Lady Wakefield, Sir Antony Acland, Sir Hugh and Lady Cortazzi, Lady Conran, Lady Pilcher, Sir Nicholas Barrington, Sir Christopher and Lady Bland, Sir John Whitehead (Japan Society), Lady Miller, Lady Parker, Sir Ronald Grierson, Sir Michael Wilford, Sir Alastair and Lady Morton, Mr Brinsley and Lady Moorea Black, Baron Vaes, Mr and Mrs Thomas Pakenham.

Mr David Wright (also representing the Permanent Under-Secretary of State and Head of the Diplomatic Service), Mr Piers Paul Read, Miss Gayle Hunnicutt, Mr and Mrs Laurence Kelly, Mr and Mrs M Seligman, Mr Frank Giles, Mrs Richard Neame, Mr Patrick Leigh Fermor, Mr Billy Whitbread, Mr Marcus de Ferranti, Ms Dictynna Hood, Mr and Mrs Christopher Hudson, Mr Philip Glazebrook, Mr Pierre Hodgson, Mr and Mrs James Howard-Johnston, Mrs Robert Cooper, Mrs Robert Kee, Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, Mrs Elizabeth Rees-Jones, Mr Tom Sewell, Mr Michael Seifert, Mrs Michael Shaw.

Mrs Lavinia Grimshaw, Mr John Russell, Mr and Mrs John Campbell, Professor James Coveney, Mr and Mrs Oliver Gates, Miss Elizabeth Wright, Mrs David Nickerson, Mr Harold Pinter, Miss Pauline Waugh, Dr Dennis M Jones, Mr Walter Riddell, Mr Colin Campbell, Mr John Hemming, Mr Alan Tyrrell, QC, Mr and Mrs R Burges Watson, Mr Alastair Forbes, Mr Robert Jackson, MP, Miss Caroline Charles, Mrs John Nutting, Mr Nigel Nicolson, Mr David Williamson, Mr and Mrs Neil Balfour, Mr Sandy Scott and Miss Linda Agran, Mr Clifford Garrard, Mr Patrick Bowring.

Mr André Giraud, Mr and Mrs John Colvin, Mr Hugh Whittemore, Mr John Hunter, Mr Anthony Hobson, Mr John Richardson, Mrs Nicholas Baring, Mr H Faure, Miss V Guinness, Mr Matthew Orr, Mr Ravi Tikkoo, Mr and Mrs Stanley Johnson, Miss Kate Hubbard, Mrs Ian Dunlop, Mr Colin G Mays, Councillor Robert Moreland (Westminster City Council and the Economic and Social Committee of the European Committee), and Captain Derek O'Reilly (National Trust) and many other friends.

Latest wills

Daphne Eileen Blanford, of Lyminge, Kent, left estate valued at £3,355,285 net.

Mrs Mary Beatrice De Carteret Murray, of Tarrant Gunville, Dorset, left estate valued at £186,062 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mr Raymond Seward Laskey, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire .... £730,998.

Mrs Helen Morris, of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire .... £702,632.

Lady Mabel Shires, of Northwood, Middlesex .... £790,191.

Mrs Christabel Ida Thomas, of Letchworth, Hertfordshire .... £758,999.

Church services tomorrow

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany.

ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 15 S Euch. Lloyd Hereford. O lord increase my faith (Loosemore). The Provost. 6.30 ES. God be in my head (Rutter). Hail Gladdening light (Wood). The Provost.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M. Confitemini Domini (Costantini): 11 S Euch. Locus iste (Bruckner). One thing have I desired (Sumsion): 3.30 Choral E. O Lorde the maker (Joubert).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP: 9.15 HC: 11 Choral Euch. We wait for thy loving kindness (McKie). Tantum ergo (Duruflé). Rev R Grimley: 4 Choral E & Carols. A ceremony of carols (Britten).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green: 7.40 M: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch. Call to remembrance (Farrant). Canon A Redfern: 3.30 Choral E. And I saw a new heaven (Bainton). Canon P Johnson

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: *8 HC: 9.30 M. Rt* Rev R Hardy. 11 S Euch. Missa Salve intemerata (Tallis). O nata lux (Tallis). The Archdeacon: 3.15 E. Benedicta tu (Tallis). 6.30 Compline. Rev Dr M Chandler.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7 45 M: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Locus iste (Bruckner). The Dean: 3 E. Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers)

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC. Rev T Jones. 9.30 Euch. Canon D Knight. 11.15 S Euch. So come to him (Elliott). The Vice Provost: 6 Choral E. Ye are the Temple of God (Thalben-Ball).

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 10 Choral M. Te Deum (Fellowes). Canon T Dennis: 11.30 Choral Euch. O Lord give thy Holy Spirit (Tallis): 3.30 Choral E. O Where shall wisdom be found (Boyce). 6.30 E Canon T Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC 10 M. From the rising of the sun (Ouseley). The Precentor. 11 S Euch. Messe Solennelle (Langlais). The Priest Vicar. 3.30 E. Thou, O God, art praised in Sion (Boyle).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC. 10 M & Sermon. Ven. 11 15 S Euch. O most merciful (Watson). 6 E. O God have mercy (Mendelssohn).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP: 8 Communion. 10.30 Euch. Alla cappella Mass (Haydn). Locus iste (Bruckner). Canon P Oestreicher. 3 German Lutherans. 3 Polish Lutherans. 5.00 E. Behold the tabernacle (Harris).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10 M. Hail gladdening light (Wood). Canon R Coppin. 11.15 HC. Oculi omnium (Wood). Canon R Coppin. 3.30 E. Almighty God which by the leading of a star (Bull)

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch. Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd). The Dean. 3.45 E. I was glad when they said unto me (Parry).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch. Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow). The Treasurer: 11.15 M. Videntes stellam (Poulenc). The Dean: 3 E. Look up sweet babe 6 30 E. The Lord hath been mindful (Wesley). The Precentor.

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon Dr M Palmer: 9.45 S Euch. O sacrum convivium (Vann). The Ven B Lucas: 11 15 M. Gloria in excelsis (Weelkes). Very Rev J Petty: 5.30 E. Antiphon (Britten).

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. 10.30 Euch. Open thou mine eyes (Rutter). The Provost: 4 Choral E. And I saw a new heaven (Bainton). The Canon Treasurer.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch. O magnum mysterium (Poulenc). The Precentor: 3.30 E. Sing lullaby (Howells).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8. 12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch. Sarum Mass (Leighton). The Chancellor: 11.15 M. Bethlehem Down (Warlock). 3.45 E. Quem vidistis, pastores (Poulenc). The Subdean.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC: 10.30 Euch. Missa Brevis (Leighton). Canon J Elford: 3 Choral E. Dyson in D. Rev J Lynn: 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 L & M; 8.12 15 H Euch. Rev J Redvers; 9 Parish Euch. The Dean: 11 S Euch. Sacerdotes Domini (Byrd). The Canon: 3 30 Choral E. Ascribe unto the Lord (Wesley). 6.30 Readings & Music.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 MP: 9 HC. 10 30 S Euch, Canon P Denby: 6 30 E. Ascribe unto the Lord (Travers), Rev C Bracegirdle.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M. 8 HC. Canon I Bennett: 9.30 S Euch. Canon P Strange. When to the temple mary went (Eccard). Mr D Harte. 6 Epiphany Carols.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Baptism. Greater love hath no man (Ireland): 6 30 S Euch. Mass for four voices (Byrd). Ego sum panis vivus (Palestrina)

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. The Precentor: 10 Euch. Ave verum corpus (Elgar). The Very Rev H Dickinson. 11.30 M. God omnipotent reigneth (Wood). Rev A Philp. 3 E. Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8.7.45 HC. 9 MP: 9.30 Parish C. 11 Euch. Ave verum (Elgar) 6 30 Festal E & Sermon. Evening Hymn (Balfour Gardiner)

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL 9 Euch: 11 Choral Euch. And I saw a new heaven (Bainton). Lully, lulla thou little tiny child (Leighton). Rev D Painter. 3 E. The spirit of the Lord (Elgar). The Provost

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC 9 M. The Librarian: 10 S Euch. O nata lux (Tallis) The Chancellor: 6 E. Let all the world (Leighton). The Dean.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon G Nairn-Briggs: 9 15 Parish C Rev A Jennings. 11 Solemn Euch. Messe Solennelle (Langlais). Canon G Nairn-Briggs: 4 E. O be joyful (Walton). Canon B Maguire.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 45 S Euch. Collegium Regale (Howells). Rev P de N Lucas: 11.30 M. Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons): 3 E & Installation of Rev R Evens. Look up sweet babe (Berkeley). Rt Rev R Lewis.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 10 M. Behold the Tabernacle of God (Harris). Rev L Houlden. 11.15 Abbey Euch. A litany (Walton): 3 E. Greater love (Ireland). Canon A Harvey: 5 45 Organ: 6.30 Evening. Rev B Fenton.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Solemn Mass. O salutaris hostia (Tallis): 3.30 Solemn V&B. Magnificat primi toni (Palestrina): 4.30 Organ

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M. Te Deum (Stanford). Tuba tune (Cocker). Rev C Stewart: 11.30 Euch. Awake my heart with gladness (Peeters). 3 30 E. Worthy is the Lamb (Handel). Rev G Tomlin

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L 8 HC: 9.30 Parish C. Mrs D Reader: 11 S Euch. O magnum mysterium (Byrd). The Vicar Choral: 3.15 E. Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling (Berlioz).

YORK MINSTER: 8.9.45 HC. 10 S Euch. Collegium Regale (Howells). Canon Dr E Norman: 11.30 M. Stanford in C. 4 E. Blessed city (Bairstow). Rev P Ferguson.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL Clwyd: 8 HC. 11 Choral M. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Wesley). Rev A Mitchell: 3 30 EP

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL 7.30 MP 8 HC. 9.30 Family. The Minor Canon: 11 15 Choral Euch. Ave verum corpus (Elgar) The Canon. 6 Choral E. O Lord the maker of all thing (Mundy). View me Lord (Lloyd). The Canon

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Southwark: 8.10 LM. 11 30 Solemn Mass. Missa Sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn). In God alone is my soul at rest (Fessard). Cantate Domino (Hassler). Fr G Bradley.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Morning HC Rev C Kenny. 10 Morning HC. Gloria in Excelsis (Dvorak). 11.30 Morning. The Very Rev Dr W McDonald. Cantate D (Byrd). 6 St Mary's Music School. 8 Evening HC. Rev F Douglas

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL London: 8 HC 9.45 M. 11 S Euch. Tantum ergo (Duruflé). Canon M Saward. 3.15 E. Wood in E. View me Lord, a work of thine (Wood). Canon M Saward. 6. Diocesan Euch

ALL SAINTS', Margaret Street W1: 8.5.15 LM: 10.20 MP. 11 HM. Quem vidistis pastores (Poulenc). The Vicar 4 30 EP.

ALL SOULS', *Langham Place*, W1: 9 Communion. 11 Rev Dr J Stott 6.30 Rev J Cook.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa exultate Deo (Cossetti). Tribus miraculis (Marenzio). Tantum ergo in E flat (Bruckner).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8. 12.15 HC: 10 Children: 11 M. O God be Merciful (Tye). Rev Dr P Elvy: 6 E. Mr D Royce.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev S Hood: 6.30 Rev D Townsend.

FARM STREET, *W1: 7.30. 8.30. 10. 12.15. Fr V* Hawe. 4.15. 6.15 LM: 11 Solemn Mass. Mass for 3 voices (Byrd). Scio enim quod Redemptor meus vivit (Lassus). Pange Lingua (Charpentier).

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC. Rev N Lee: 11 Informal Service. Rev N Gumbel: 5.7.30 Informal Service, Rev S Millar.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7. 8. 9. 10. 11 Mass. Missa Euge bone (Tye). Ecce flos campi (Clemens): 12.30. 4.30. 7 Mass: 3.30 V & B. O sacrum convivium (Handl).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Holy Mass. Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC: 11 Morning. Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 M Worship. Rev Dr P Graves. 6.30 E Praise. Rev Dr R Gibbons.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2. 11 Choral HC Rev P Schmiege: 7 Jazz V. Rev P Schmiege

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1. 9 HC: 11 Choral M. Say where is he born the King of Judea (Mendelssohn) The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4 11 Choral M & Euch. Lullaby (Byrd) Canon J Oates.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 M. Te Deum and Jubilate (Boyce). O God when thou appearest (Mozart). Rev P Bishop.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1. 11.3 HC. Rev J McIndoe: 6.30 Rev W Cairns

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place 11 S Mass. Laudate Nomen Domini (Mendelssohn). Panis Angelicus (Rebelo)

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC. 11 S Euch. Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré). The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4. 10.30 S Euch. John Paul. Rector

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC. 11 S Euch. Rev S Cathie: 5 45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family. Chorale No.3 (Franck). Rev D Richards: 6.30 HC. Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8.10 HC. 10 MP Let all the world (Williams) 6.30 EP.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C: 11 S Euch. King Herod and the Cock (Walton). Rev A Shaw.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch. Missa Cantuarensis (Rubbra). Omnes de Saba venient (Handl). Canon D Hutt.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch: 11.30 Visitors. Rev B Schunemann: 2.45 Chinese. Rev G Lee: 5 Choral E: 6.30 International. The Vicar.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8. 12.30 HC: 9.30 Parish Euch. The Vicar: 11.15 Choral M: 6.30 E. Rev F Gelli.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, *SW1: 9.10 LM; 11* HM. Missa S Johannis de Deo (Haydn). Canon P Pilkington.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC: 10.30 Parish Euch. Mass for a Saint's Day (Jackson). O quam gloriosum (Byrd). Rev J Ovenden: 6 Wholeness.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; *11 Choral* Euch. Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina). Surely thou hast tasted that the Lord is good (Rose). Rev P Wells.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 10.15 Children: 11 HC. Malcolm Matson: 7 Informal, Rev C Marnham.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8.9 Solemn Euch: 11 Collegium Regale (Howells). Exultate Deo (Howells). Rev C Courtauld.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 11 Missa Brevis (Britten). Tota pulchra es, Maria (Duruflé). Fugue sur le carillon de Soissons (Duruflé). Fr W Keyes.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner Street, SW3: 8 HC: 11 M. Jubilate (Kelly). O where shall wisdom be found (Boyce): 6.30 E. Rev G James.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8.9 LM: 11 Solemn Mass. Jugendmesse (Haydn). Laudate Dominum (Mozart). Canon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC, 11 M & Sermon. Te Deum (Farrant). Omnes de Saba venient (Handl)

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 15 MP. A vast cloud of love (Popplewell). Canon D Gray.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 M. Christus factus est (Bruckner): 3.30 E. How dear are thy counsels (Crotch). How lovely are the messengers (Mendelssohn). Canon M Moore.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch. Mass for five voices (Byrd). Videte miraculum (Tallis). Fugue (Bach). Rev S Hobbs

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M: 12.30 HC. Te Deum (Gibbons). Here is the little door (Howells). The Chaplain.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30. 11 15 HC. The Creed (Merbecke). The Master.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M. The heavens are telling (Haydn). The Chaplain: 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 8 Euch. Dance. Teach me O Lord (Byrd). Rev I Naylor.

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Rend you hearts and not your garments and turn back to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate.
Joel 2 : 13 (REB)

BIRTHS

BURGESS - See Greenfield.

BUXTON *- On January 25th,* to Henrietta (née Jewson) and Nicholas, a son, Edward Arthur Powell.

CADERNI - On January 25th 1996, to Emma (née Hill) and Niccolò, a son, Eduardo Michael Orlando.

DESMOND - On 24th January at St John's Hospital, Chelmsford, to Julie (née Laing) and Aaron, a daughter, Daisy Jessica.

DOUTHWAITE - On November 30th 1995, to Mary (née Telfer) and Kenneth, a beautiful daughter, Rebecca Rosemary, a sister for Matthew and Christopher.

DOWDESWELL - On 22nd January 1996, to Penny (née *Forbes) and Tim*, a son, Charles Henry Forbes.

FLOOD - On 23rd January, to Colm and Emma, a daughter, Annabel Louise, a sister for Freddie and Ellie.

GORE - On January 24th, to Katie (née Ambler) and Christopher, a son, John Theodore (Johnnie), a brother for Lucy Locket.

GREENFIELD - On 18th January at St Thomas', to Mary (née Burgess) and Rollo, a daughter, Fenella, a sister for Caroline.

ORTIZ-PATIÑO - On 26th January 1996 at The Portland Hospital, to Denise (née Bitar) and Carlos, a son, Jaime.

BIRTHS

QUIST - On Wednesday January 3rd 1996, at 6.30pm, to Stephanie (née Newman) and Dela, a daughter Olympia Selasi, a sister for Katja Adjo.

REILLY - On 12th January 1996, to Tim and Helen (née Kelsey), a daughter, Harriet Tara.

TRICKS - On January 22nd, to Fiona (née Macdonald) and William, a son, Toby Hugh Foster.

DEATHS

BARRACLOUGH - Lady Gladys peacefully in her sleep at home on January 20th, deeply loved wife of Sir Kenneth Barraclough, in her ninetieth year. Funeral arrangements later. Enquiries to A & W Goddard, Fleet. (01252) 616431.

BINNEY - Josephine Ann (née Saner) on 22nd January 1996 aged 70 at home peacefully after a long illness borne with great courage. Beloved wife of Hibbert. Memorial Service to be held at Sherborne Abbey on Friday February 2nd at 2.30pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, for Friends of Yeatman Hospital and Friends of Sherborne Abbey to W.A. Brister, 100 Lenthay Road, Sherborne, DT9 6AG.

DEATHS

BOURNE - Harriet Elizabeth peacefully on 24th January 1996 at The London Clinic after a long illness valiantly borne. Cremation on Wednesday 31st January 1996 at 4.30 pm at South London Crematorium. Family flowers only please, and donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund or BACUP c/o Christopher James, Queen Elizabeth Building, Temple, London EC4Y 9BS.

CHALLINOR - On January 24th, 1996, at Tabley House, Knutsford, formerly of Cheadle, Cheshire, peacefully in his 94th year, Major Harry Challinor (Ret'd.), beloved husband of the late Hilda and a dear *father, grandfather and* great-grandfather. Service at Macclesfield Crematorium on Monday, January 29th, at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Jonathan Alcock & Sons Ltd. Tel: (0161) 428-2097.

CHILD - Lois Aitkin, on January 24th, aged 90. Much loved wife of the late Hu and mother of Sarah, Julia, Peter and Penny. Enquiries to 0140 484 1476. Donations if desired to the National Trust.

DEATHS

CRAYFORD - Christabel the beloved wife of Berkeley Deals and mother of Philip and Paul died peacefully on Tuesday 23rd January 1996, aged 74 years. Private Cremation will be followed by a memorial service at Compton Abbas Parish Church on Wednesday 31st January at 2 pm. Donations if desired for C.P.R.E. may be sent to Merefield & Henstridge, F/D, Melbury Abbas, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0BU.

DEAN - Rosalind on 24th January 1996, at Gosmore Nursing Home, Hitchin, Herts., aged 78, after a long illness. Dear wife of the late Basil Dean and greatly loved and missed by her family. Service at All Saints Church, St Pauls Walden, Whitwell, nr. Hitchin, at 10 am Tuesday 30th January, followed by burial at Euston Church, Euston, nr. Thetford, Norfolk, at 1 pm.

FAULKNER - Peacefully on 24th January at Exeter Nuffield Hospital after a short illness, Marjory Joy (née Stewart), aged 83, mother of Lyn and Robin, grandmother of Thomas, Harriet, Alice and Edward. Funeral Service at St Peter's Church, Tiverton on Tuesday, 30th January at 11am, followed by a private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Tiverton Marie Curie Centre, c/o Barclays Bank, 24 Fore Street, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6LE.

DEATHS

GORE-BOOTH - Sir Angus Josslyn, 8th Baronet, on January 26th. Funeral at Lissadell on January 30th at 2.30 pm.

HADDOCK - On January 24th 1996, peacefully at his home in Grimsby. Dr. Edwin Aldridge (Fin) Haddock, M.B., B.S.(Dunelm), D.Obst., R.C.O.G. Dearly loved husband of Trish, much loved father of Jemunde and Alexander and dearest grandpop to Ivo, Clementine and Nathaniel. Service at St Giles's Church, Scartho, on Wednesday January 31st at 2.45pm followed by interment in the Churchyard. Immediate family flowers only please. If desired donations in lieu may be sent to The Grimsby and Cleethorpes Macmillan Nurse Appeal, District General Hospital, Centre Block, Northside, Scartho Road, Grimsby DN33 2BA.

KNOX - Sheila Oriel, widow of Squadron Leader Brian Wright Knox, on 4th January 1996 after a short illness, aged 81 years.

LAWSON - Peacefully at Queen Mary's, Hampstead on Friday 26th January 1996, the Hon. Sir Neil Lawson, devoted husband of Gwen, father of Alan and Annabel and a beloved grandfather and great-grandfather. Private cremation, no flowers by request. Any donations to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Memorial Service will be arranged later.

DEATHS

LACE - On 20th January at Perrins Residential Home, Malvern, peacefully after a long illness patiently borne, Olive Jessie, formerly of Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, in her 90th year, sister of Edward and the late George and Roger. Funeral Service at Worcester Crematorium on Thursday February 8th at 2 pm. Family flowers only or donations if desired to Friends of the Elderly. Enquiries to F.W. Spilsbury Funeral Director, tel: (01684) 892777.

LEAROYD - Roderic (Babe) VC, died suddenly at his home on 24th January. Much loved and sadly missed by Mona, Barry and Lesley and all his family and many friends. Cremation and private service for family and close friends at Worthing Crematorium on Friday 2nd February at 12.40 pm. Flowers or donations for VC GC Association through H.D. Tribe Ltd, Funeral Directors, 63 Sea Lane, Rustington, BN16 2RQ. (0171) 536 5000

LEE - On 11th January 1996, in Boulogne Sur Mer, France, in his 87th year, Wing Cmdr Asher Lee OBE, American Legion of Merit, Wartime Air Intelligence. A Requiem Mass will be held at Notre Dam du France Church, Leicester Place, London SW1 at 11 am on Tuesday 30th January.

MILLAR - Peacefully at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, on Wednesday January 24th 1996, Professor Malcolm Millar, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.C.Psych. Much loved husband of Helen Ramsay, Beechgrove Avenue, Aberdeen and relict of Rena Rankin, loving father of Elizabeth, David, Harry, Margaret, Katherine and Sheila, also a dearly loved grandfather. Funeral Service in Beechgrove Church on Monday January 29th at 12.30 pm, thereafter to St Ternans Cemetery Banchory, to which all friends are respectfully invited.

NORMAN - On January 23rd 1996, peacefully after a short illness, Susannah of Milton Abbot, Devon, eldest daughter of Grace and Michael. Private cremation. Memorial Service and burial of ashes, on Wednesday January 31st, at Milton Abbot Church at 2 pm.

POTTLE - See Bourne.

PYCRAFT - Ellen (née Lundgren) born Copenhagen 1910, died peacefully January 26th in Chelsea and Westminster Hospital amidst most kind nurses and doctors. Widow of Eric, much loved and missed by sons Carl and John, daughter-in-law Anne, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, her many friends and lodgers and Joe and Marilyn. Funeral Service at The Danish Church, Regents Park, at 3pm on Thursday 1st February. Flowers, or donations to the R.N.L.I. c/o Chelsea Funeral Parlour, tel: (0171) 352-0008.

TRYON - Hon. Aylmer Douglas. Peacefully at Kingfisher Mill, his home over the River Avon, aged 86. Local funeral service at St Andrew's, Great Durnford, 11.30 am, Thursday, 1st February. Memorial Service to be announced later.

TUFNELL - Graham Jolliffe peacefully in hospital on 25th January following an accident in Istanbul. Beloved elder son of John and Betty, brother of Patricia and Ian. Funeral 1.30 pm Monday 5th February St Andrew's Church, Wormingford, followed by private cremation. No flowers please, but donations if desired to St Andrew's Church c/o W.H. Shephard, 93/94 High Street, Colchester.

WHARTON - On January 24th 1996, in hospital after a brief but brave struggle with cancer Marina (Rena) née Bryant of Heythorp Common and formerly of Ringwood. Dearly loved wife of Don and mother of Steve. Funeral to be held at Ringwood Parish Church on Thursday February 1st at 1.45 pm followed by cremation at Salisbury. Family flowers only but if desired donations for the R.S.P.C.A. Animal Home at Ashley Heath may be sent to Barrow Bros., Funeral Directors, 2 Nursery Road, Ringwood, Hants.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

TSCHIFFELY - Violet, beloved wife of Aimé. Fondly remembered on 28/1/96.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

BRODRICK - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Elizabeth Brodrick will be held at St Mark's Church, Englefield, near Reading on Saturday February 3rd at 12 noon.

TICKETS FOR SALE

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OBITUARIES

ARTHUR MARTIN

Arthur Martin, CBE, a member of the Security Service, 1946-64, and an officer with the Secret Intelligence Service, 1964-69, died on January 10 aged 81. He was born on February 15, 1914.

ARTHUR MARTIN spent most of his working life in counter-espionage. He first became a molehunter extraordinaire at a period in MI5's history when the suspicions of hidden traitors were tearing the service apart. He was unremitting in his search for clues that might have led to the exposure of undiscovered Soviet penetration.

A former CIA officer once said of him that he held a PhD in counter-intelligence, while the rest were "mere Bachelors". His reputation was awesome. He played a part in uncovering the treachery of many of the Soviet moles in the 1950s and 1960s, including Kim Philby and Klaus Fuchs, the atomic secrets spy.

While Peter Wright, a fellow molehunter from the same era, was subsequently to achieve notoriety as the dedicated spycatcher, Martin was perhaps the key figure whose legendary counter-espionage skills were called on to root out the moles who had been buried for so long in the British intelligence community.

In his book, *Spycatcher* (1987), Wright described Martin as a brilliant and intuitive case officer. He also said that Martin had one huge advantage in his approach to counter-espionage work: he did not attend public school. Martin was a grammar school boy.

Arthur Sydney Martin joined the Security Service in 1946 after serving for six years with the highly secret agency, the Radio Security Service (RSS), which was responsible worldwide for the identification and interception of enemy wireless communications.

During his time as an army signals officer with the RSS, he served in Egypt, Libya and Italy as well as the United Kingdom before being demobilised in June 1946 with the rank of major.

Between 1946 and 1952 he was concerned principally with analysis of intelligence which led to the identification and conviction of Fuchs, the German-born physicist who had been recruited to the American Manhattan Project from Britain, and to the identification of Donald Maclean as a Soviet agent.

Martin was also case officer in the investigation of Kim Philby as a suspected Soviet agent. He prepared the interview brief which led to Philby's resignation from the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) in September 1950. He was also involved when, in 1963 in Beirut, Philby confessed to being a long-term Soviet spy before escaping to Moscow.

The defection of Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean had cast immediate doubt on Philby's loyalty and Martin was among those in MI5 who feared he was a traitor. Philby, who was chief liason officer between MI6 and the CIA and FBI, was interrogated in November 1951. Martin was present although the main interrogator was "Buster" Milmo, a wartime MI5 officer who had became a barrister and then a judge. Philby's performance convinced both men that he was the Third Man who tipped off Maclean that he was about to be arrested.

Wright claimed that Martin pressed the management of MI5 to sanction urgent inquiries into the whole complex network of communist infiltrations of Cambridge in the 1930s but that his requests for permission to interview members of the Philby, Burgess and Maclean social circles were mostly refused. He found this frustrating because he was convinced that Soviet penetration had been underestimated.

Sir Dick White, then Director-General of MI5, had enormously high regard for Martin and he sent him to Malaya as MI5 security liaison officer. This proved to be a crucial job for Martin who played a leading role in the successful counter-insurgency campaign in Malaya. He reorganised the Special Branch organisation in the struggle with communist insurgents.

In 1959 he returned to the counter-espionage field and was head of the Soviet section in 1960, a post he held with distinction until November 1964. He was leader of the teams of investigators who, after ten months of skilful inquiries, brought about the arrest and conviction of the Soviet spies Gordon Lonsdale, Harry Houghton and Ethel Gee in 1961 and of John Vassall in 1962.

Martin had a reputation for finding the hidden answers and questions that lay in files. He reopened the files on the unresolved investigations into Soviet penetration of British Intelligence since 1951, and was at the heart of the inquiries which began in great secrecy after suspicions arose about the highest ranking officers in MI5, Sir Roger Hollis who became Director-General in 1956, and his deputy, Graham Mitchell.

Martin served on the Fluency Committee, a joint MI5/MI6 committee *which was charged with examining* every possible line that might lead to the uncovering of another mole. It was chaired by Peter Wright and included Martin and Evelyn McBarnett, described as MI5's queen of the registry.

No evidence was found against either Hollis or Mitchell. But Martin remained convinced that further inquiries were justified. In 1964 Sir Anthony Blunt was exposed (though not yet publicly) as a long-standing Soviet spy. In April of that year, it was Martin who was authorised to confront Blunt and offer him immunity in return for his confession.

But Martin's insistence that the molehunting should continue was not shared by everyone, particularly Hollis, who at one point suspended him. In 1984 Martin wrote to *The Times* saying that, while Hollis fitted the circumstantial evidence more closely than other candidate, the case against him was not conclusive.

After his disagreement with Hollis, Martin turned to Sir Dick White, who by then was chief of SIS. White recruited him to join SIS and he swapped services in November 1964 and stayed with SIS until his retirement in 1969.

Martin was appointed CBE in 1953 and after his retirement from the intelligence world, he worked for some years as an assistant to the Clerk of Committees in the House of Lords.

Arthur Martin had two sons by his first wife, Joan Harrow, whom he married in 1938. He lived in retirement for many years with his second wife, Joan, née Russell King, who survives him.

JOHN LOWE

John Lowe, musician and musical administrator, died on January 5 aged 89. He was born on October 31, 1906.

John Lowe, conducting the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in the 1950s

JOHN LOWE will be remembered particularly for his achievements in setting up the BBC Third Programme Music Department after the war and in directing the Coventry Festival for the consecration of the rebuilt Coventry Cathedral in 1962.

Born in Grantham, John Stanley Lowe studied music at Cambridge. After a spell as a music teacher at Eastbourne College, he became Director of Music at Homerton College in Cambridge. While working there, he was also a tireless and dedicated conductor of the *Cambridge Philharmonic Orchestra* and Chorus. Those who heard them still speak of performances of Bach's B Minor Mass with the then relatively unknown Kathleen Ferrier and Peter Pears, and of Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius* with Kathleen Ferrier as the Angel.

In 1947 John Lowe joined the BBC as Director of Music for the Third Programme, where he set the pattern for the future. He organised concerts conducted by Richard Strauss and Toscanini, pioneered series devoted to early music, and gave opportunities to leading young musicians such as Benjamin Britten.

In 1950 he moved to the Midland Region of the BBC, where he ran the Music Department until 1961. His time there is still remembered for the development of the BBC Midland Orchestra and Chorus, and for series of concerts devoted to the music of Vaughan Williams and Edmund Rubbra. He played an active part in Birmingham musical life, collaborating closely with Rudolph Schwarz, conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra at the time.

His next move was to the directorship of the 1962 Coventry Festival. This was a triumphant success, involving the commissioning and performing of many new works, most notably Michael Tippett's opera *King Priam* and Britten's *War Requiem*, in which the Russian soprano Galina Vishnevskaya, the German baritone Dietrich Fischer Dieskau and the English tenor Peter Pears sang together to symbolise reconciliation and peace.

Lowe was a devout Roman Catholic and during his time in Birmingham contributed strongly to the city's Catholic life as Director of Music at the Birmingham Oratory. He was also a devoted family man, married for more than fifty years to Barbara Gibbon, an historian and teacher who had been one of the early Commonwealth Fellows and who died in 1984. They had four children.

Lowe possessed, too, a gift for friendship and had many close friends among the musicians of his time, including Edric Cundell, Steuart Wilson and Edmund Rubbra. He was an excellent pianist and particularly enjoyed playing chamber music.

In the mid-Sixties ill-health forced him to retire and he spent the latter years of his life very quietly. In his last five years he found serenity in Scotland, deriving much comfort from both the Latin Mass and Gregorian Chant at Pluscarden Abbey. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

LEONARD McNAE

L. C. J. McNae, journalist and textbook editor, died on January 1 aged 93. He was born on December 28, 1902.

LEONARD McNAE gave his name to the reference book that in many newsrooms has become the "bible" consulted whenever legal queries arise. Generations of journalism trainees have gritted their teeth to study McNae's *Essential Law for Journalists* because it is the required textbook for the national training scheme and later, as seniors and editors, have come to rely on it as a familiar prop.

The book had its origins in 1938 in a volume *The Pressman and the Law* produced by G. F. L. Bridgman of the Middle Temple for the National Union of Journalists (NUJ). Towards the end of the Second World War, Bridgman revised the material for a correspondence course produced for journalists in the Forces about to return to civilian life.

By 1953, however, the course needed drastic revision and amplification as a result of changes in the administration of criminal justice and the structure of local government. It was taken over by the recently formed National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ), and the task of revision was shouldered by McNae, then an executive in the sub-editors department of the Press Association and later news editor, then editor, of its special reporting service. The legal material in the course was published as a book in 1954 by Staples Press under the title *Essential Law for Journalists.*

McNae ceased to edit new editions of the book when he retired from the Press Association in 1967, but continued to take a keen interest, attending as an honoured guest of Butterworths, the publishers, and of the launches of successive editions until last year, when he was kept away from the event by Alzheimer's disease.

A pleasing but probably apocryphal story tells of a judge who was referred to the work of "McNae L. C. J." and who promptly replied he could not recall a Lord Chief Justice of that name. Indeed, McNae had no formal legal training but he was ideally placed in his work for the special reporting service to study the legal problems faced by journalists, in particular in their work of reporting a great variety of courts, tribunals and authorities.

In 1962, when the NUJ bestowed honorary membership on McNae for his work on the book, the citation recorded the monumental task of editorship which required "many dreary nights of research in the PA library and more hours of painstaking research at home"; typically painstaking, said the citation, because the self-effacing McNae did thoroughly whatever job he undertook.

He had also the help of a team of newspapermen and others who attached great importance to the training of journalists. Among them was the youthful lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck, who contributed the chapters on defamation (and has continued to help with each successive edition).

It was typical of the spirit that motivated the pioneers of journalism training in the years after the war that neither McNae nor any other member of his team asked for or received any payment for their labours.

Leonard Cyril James McNae was born in Bermondsey. His parents moved to Eastbourne and he worked as a proof reader for the Beckett series of local weekly newspapers. He learnt shorthand and in 1922 became district reporter at Uckfield for the *Sussex County Herald*.

He began to lose his hearing at 25 and, realising he could no longer report, turned to sub-editing, first for the *Northern Whig*, Belfast, then *The Irish Times*, Dublin. In 1934 he joined the Press Association as a sub-editor in London, where he was known as "Mick" McNae because the Press Association had so many "Macs".

He was an able journalist. As an executive, he inspired awe among his younger staff because of his high professional standards and also because of a rather austere manner that may have resulted from his hearing difficulty. He worked people hard but was kindly to those in trouble.

He became editor of the special reporting service in 1956, playing an important part in the establishment of this valuable service, and retired in 1967. In retirement in Richmond he was active as a Freemason and as a Rotarian; for some 14 years was secretary of the Richmond Philanthropic Society, which gives instant help to people in need. He was a founder member of the Richmond Parish Lands Committee, concerned with the development for the people of the Borough of Richmond of lands given by George III.

In 1928 he married Freda Ager, and he is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters.

DUANE HANSON

Duane Hanson, sculptor, died in Florida on January 6 aged 70. He was born in Minnesota on January 17, 1925.

DUANE HANSON was a super-realist sculptor who chose as his theme a contemporary American *comédie humaine*. His almost burlesque figures, remarkable for their unnerving precision, condense and concentrate reality.

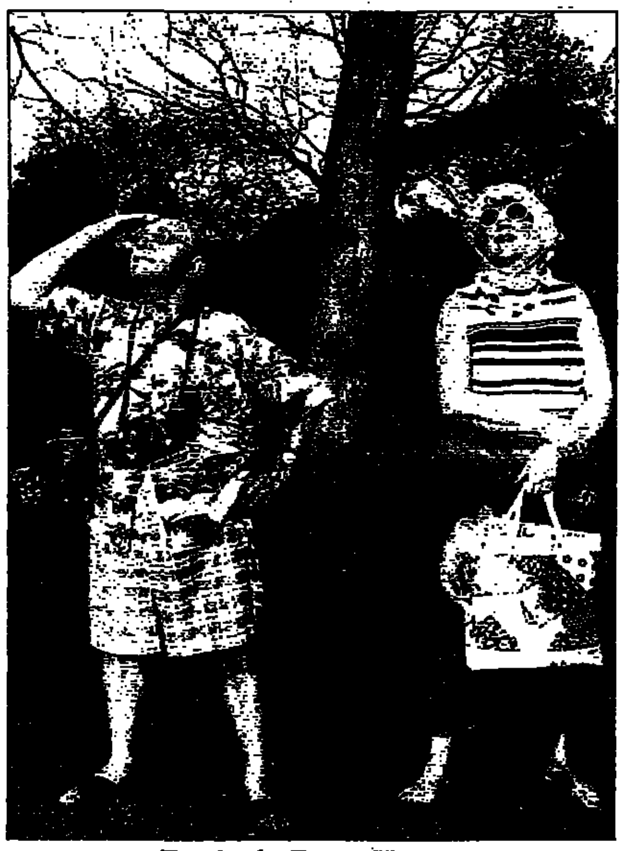
With unblinking attention to the commonplace, Hanson sculpted the unidealised "average" people of America: the middle-aged *Florida Shopper* (1973) with grubby bag and garish shirt, liver-spotted hands clutched beneath slack bosom, or the *Woman with Purse* (1974), whose deadpan expression mirrors the quiet despair of daily drudgery.

To the British his best-known work will probably be his *Tourists* (1970) on display in the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. The stinging honesty of this depiction of a pair of vulgar sightseers, legs akimbo and gawping crassly, arouses an awkward blend of laughter, tenderness and contempt in the viewer.

Casting directly from the human form, Hanson made up his sculptures with polyester resin and fibreglass, using an airbrush for the flesh colour, a durable acrylic for the eyes and often real hair on the head.

But it was observation rather than technique which interested him. His attention to detail was fanatical. He would labour over whole areas of skin later to be concealed under the clothing. And the clothes themselves were given painstaking attention — polyester fashions, winged sunglasses, vinyl bags — all were carefully chosen to reflect the subject's character and convey a social milieu. Verisimilitude was taken to an extreme. In museums all over the world curators still daily wind the wristwatches of Hanson's sculptures and cackle over anecdotes of visitors duped by an almost hallucinatory mimicry.

Duane Elwood Hanson began his career as an abstract artist, supplementing a meagre income by teaching, first in America and then in Europe. It was in Germany that he was given his first one-man show in 1952. But it was only with the Pop art explosion of the Sixties, and its popularisation of vernacular imagery, that Hanson really found his subject.



Tourists by Duane Hanson

However, where Pop tended to focus on idealised aspects of American society, Hanson's realism, when it initially emerged, was awkwardly horrific and aggressively political. His subjects were race riots, gangland violence, human dereliction and, perhaps most notable of all, a *Vietnam Scene* (1969) in which the semi-naked bodies of soldiers lie strewn on a mud-spattered tarpaulin, parodying with macabre irony the poses of sunbathers on a beach.

By the Seventies, however, Hanson's satiric edge was beginning to grow blunt and the more contemplative mood of his best-known works began to emerge. In 1972 he had solo shows in New York and Cologne and in 1974 his first retrospective in Stuttgart.

But, although these exhibitions were to be followed by several more, mostly in the United States and Germany, his work, perhaps because it centred on a sector of society which had little to do with the art establishment, never really attained widespread critical acclaim.

Nevertheless, Hanson survived the demise of super-realism when an ultra-expressive art came into fashion in the mid-Seventies and, despite a constant battle against cancer brought on by his early work with resins, he lived to see his work have a new relevance for emerging contemporary artists like Rachel Whiteread, Charles Ray or Jeff Koons, all of whom follow his technique of casting directly from the human body.

Duane Hanson married twice. He is survived by his second wife, Wesla Host, whom he married in 1968, and by two sons and a daughter from his first marriage and a son and a daughter from his second.

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TRUSTEE ACTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

I would like to wish John Davis-Thornhill a magical 30th birthday and thanks for choosing the time of clubs, regards Howard.

LESLIE T - Love you tons - Martin xx

OXBERRY Elizabeth Margaret Mackenzie. Remember "Peacock Pie" given to Nigel in September '47. Please write. Athene Jane. Please Reply to Box No 3156

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ON THIS DAY

January 27, 1795

This four-page issue was devoted to the war with France. The Prime Minister, Pitt, successfully opposed a motion by Charles Grey that "... the existence of the Government of France ought not to be considered as precluding ... a negotiation for Peace".

[THE DEBATE ON THE WAR]

... Although the present Convention of France professes to have renounced the crimes and cruelties of their predecessors, yet, since they had been in a state of pure innocence, has there been more apparent unanimity among those in whom the present Government subsisted? On the contrary, there never had been such instances of opposition, distraction and confusion. They were continually recriminating on each other the guilt of those very cruelties he had been stating. Did he say then that the present system of France must fall? He said no such thing. Did he then say that the present rulers of France might extricate themselves in some degree from that abuse, and follow a more just and prudent line; and that they might gradually draw a veil over former severities, by which if they could not gain the good opinion of others, they might gain their acquiescence? They certainly might. Had that time arrived? He said it had not. But if such an order of things should arrive, through whatever road, and by whatever means, if they gave to their Government that stability and that authority which might afford grounds, not of certainty, but of moral probability, by which human affairs must be conducted, then take new measures. So much on that part of the subject.

But supposing he did not look to the supposition of a change, the next thing was, what dependence had we on the pacific disposition of the present National Convention of France. We had reasons, founded on probability, to infer that they entertained a spirit of hostility to all regular Governments; and most of all to the Government of this country. If they had any reason to believe that the Convention of France were disposed to peace, must he not infer that they were probably disposed to it, because they thought it would most probably tend to their advantage, and to our ruin. Till there was satisfactory evidence that their spirit of hostility to other Nations was destroyed, he saw probable ground, in the very nature of their system, that they must have that hostility, till they ceased to act upon it. They looked upon their own Government as the only lawful Government in the world, and regard the Governments of all other Nations as usurpation. That was the system they professed, and they had also acted upon it, which was one of the main causes of the origin of the present war. Did France make any professions of peace, or did she shew any disposition for peace built as she felt herself wearied of the war, and as she found herself involved in difficulties. The National Convention had said plainly they desired a partial peace, because so extensive a war they found themselves unequal to prosecute. They had professed they desired peace with some of the Powers, in order to ruin more securely those against whom they wish to carry on the war. And he might add afterwards to ruin those with whom now they professed to be willing to treat for Peace. They would make a distinction in making Peace. Their moderation was reserved for Holland, their revengeful principles for Great Britain ...

Mr Pitt concluded with observing, that, under the present existing circumstances, the only likely way of procuring a safe and honourable peace, was by a vigorous prosecution of the present just and necessary war ...

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Fresh trial for Kevin Maxwell

■ Kevin Maxwell faces the prospect of another long trial after the Serious Fraud Office announced it was pressing ahead with further charges against him. The decision came seven days after his acquittal on charges of conspiracy to defraud pensioners of shares worth £122 million, and he immediately denounced it as a political move in the run-up to a general election .... **Page 1**

Hillary Clinton faces grand jury

■ Hillary Clinton arrived at a federal courthouse to become the first President's wife to be subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury. She was called to explain the disappearance of records of her legal work for the corrupt Arkansas bank at the heart of the Whitewater affair.............. **Page 1**

Writ for Duchess

The Duchess of York faced fresh embarrassment over her finances as a former friend issued a High Court writ demanding she repay a £100,000 loan .... **Page 1**

Frozen Britain

Below-freezing temperatures and Arctic winds closed roads across Britain.............................. **Page 1**

Jail settlement

Seven prisoners claiming they were mentally traumatised by riots in Strangeways jail, reached out-of-court settlements of almost £5,000 each........................ **Page 3**

Retirement cabins

The first US-style retirement village for almost 1,000 people is planned in Essex, complete with golf links and log cabins ... **Page 8**

Act of cruelty

Cruelty to hedgehogs, badgers and frogs will soon be punishable by jail under a Bill rushed through the Commons .... **Page 4**

Scottish dinosaurs

Dinosaur footprints believed to be the first discovered in Scotland have been found in Skye... **Page 5**

Church message

Britain is becoming religiously illiterate, according to the new Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres........ **Pages 1, 10**

Beautiful ambition

Irene Sáez, 34, who was Miss Universe in 1981, hopes to become the next President of Venezuela .... **Page 11**

Saddam 'cancer'

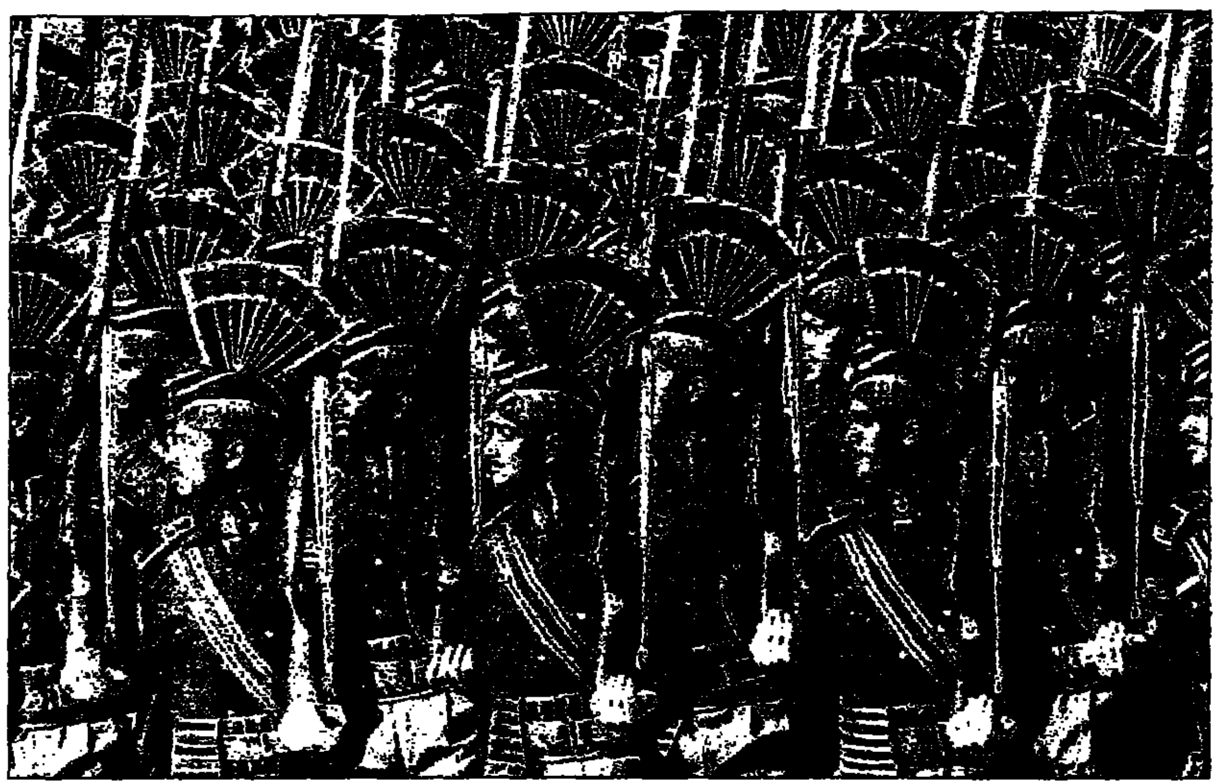
President Saddam Hussein of Iraq is reported to have lymphatic cancer.................................. **Page 13**

EMU debate

France's debate on European monetary union intensified when Philippe Séguin, Speaker of the National Assembly, insisted postponing plans for a single currency would not be a disaster .... **Page 15**

Survival is no picnic for teddy bears

■ The evolution of the teddy bear is determined by the survival of the cutest, according to psychologists. Since the first teddies were made, they have evolved by degrees from long-snouted animals into cute, snub-nosed creatures .... **Page 7**



Indian soldiers march in Delhi yesterday to mark the country's 47th anniversary of independence. Page 11

OPINION

Hillary and Cherie: The hostility towards Hillary Clinton has been compounded by the unease which many Americans feel about a First Lady being both a career woman and a political adviser to her husband. This is what must alarm Cherie Blair .. **Page 21**

Primary power: The methods of managing schools and teaching pupils need, not stability, but still more radical change .... **Page 21**

Grey Polar bears: Essex is a fine choice for our first sun city But residents should take their leg-warmers .... **Page 21**

THE PAPERS

Mr Major's place in history will be determined by his handling of the Irish crisis.

— *The New York Times*

COLUMNS

Philip Howard: We English are famous throughout the world for our hypocrisy about schools — and everything else .... **Page 20**

Simon Jenkins: Centuries are astronomically insignificant. The first day of the new millennium will be no different from the last of the old. Why the fuss?.......... **Page 20**

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Arthur Martin, molehunter; **John Lowe**, musician; **Duane Hanson**, sculptor; **Leonard McNae**, journalist and textbook editor.. **Page 23**

LETTERS

Practising forgiveness; global warming: William Cash, MP, on monetary union; stakeholder society .. **Page 21**

BUSINESS

Sainsbury: The supermarkets group warned the stockmarket that profits in the financial year would suffer because of the price war and advertising costs ...... **Page 25**

Colorvision: The Office of Fair Trading dealt a severe blow to Colorvision when it stripped the television and video retailer of its consumer credit licence............ **Page 25**

Air wars: Boeing and Airbus are ready to develop rival super-jumbo jets to carry up to 600 people .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 0.4 points to close at 3734.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 83.1 after a fall from $1.5148 to $1.5028 but a rise from DM2.2369 to DM2.2414 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: Necastle United hope that Faustino Asprilla, the Colombia international, will be available for them in a fortnight ....**Page 48**

Tennis: *Boris Becker is to* meet Michael Chang in the men's singles final at the Australian Open. Chang beat Andre Agassi, the world No 1, 6-1, 6-4, 7-6, in a one-sided semifinal.........................**Page 44**

Racing: One Man, the ante-post favourite, will not race before the Cheltenham Gold Cup on March 14. Gordon Richards will school him at Carlisle or Newcastle**Page 45**

Radio: *Sport stands to be one* of the main beneficiaries when the BBC's Digital Audio Broadcasting service expands over the next two years ....**Page 48**

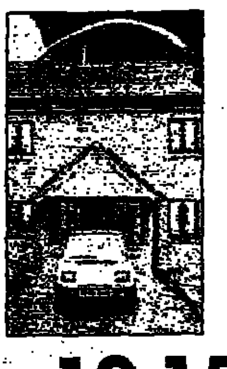
SATURDAY TIMES

MAGAZINE

Missing: Alan Jackson on the mysterious case of Richey James Edwards, the disappearing pop star .... **Page 8**

The Art of betrayal: Paul Cézanne's closest friend, Emile Zola, soon became his greatest critic. Richard Cork reports........................ **Page 24**

WEEKEND



Catch the sun: The house and car that cost nothing to run .... **Pages 1 & 3**

Gardening: Using climbers to create pillars of colour....................... **Page 4**

Outdoors: Why wolves may roam the Highlands **Page 12**

Travel: Hiring a ski guide: home exchanges. **Pages 16-21**

10 15

The weekly magazine for young Times readers

Boarding school: abroad with the snowboarding Brits .... **Page 6**

Win: a snowboarding kit or a VIP day at the Snow-Dome..........................**Page 3**

Writers wanted: your chance to join the young reporters' team..........................**Page 8**

The seven-day guide to television and radio

Cover story: the curious world of the children's charm pageant in *Painted Babies*, BBC2, 9.30pm

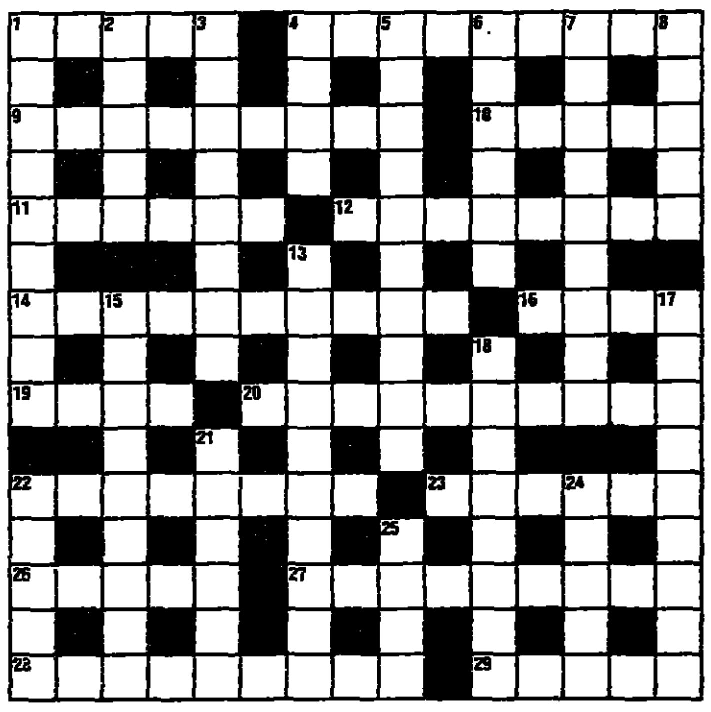
Shoe business: Ruby Wax meets Imelda Marcos, Sunday, BBC1, 9.55pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,075

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



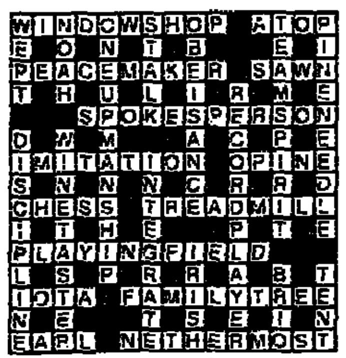
ACROSS

1 Bookmaker whose aides keep him in extras (5).
4 Officer making warship change direction (9).
9 Rogue in novel, putting condition to gangster (9).
10 Deviate from perpendicular (5)
11 Choice cut from right inside animal (6).
12 Once again, make to relax (8).
14 Showing long trouble, roughly speaking? Pin on cigarette (6,4).
16 Implicitly seek one in school (4).
19 Pleased with oneself, putting trees back in (4).
20 Sailing carelessly in the sea — not shipshape (10).
22 International group giving dangerously laconic advice to motorists? (3,5).
23 Gas that's found in the blood (6).
26 Live in Lincoln? I would! (5).
27 Telling a popular leader repeatedly to head revolt (9).
28 It gets him moving with the utmost force (9).
29 Port in small measure found in part of India (5).

DOWN

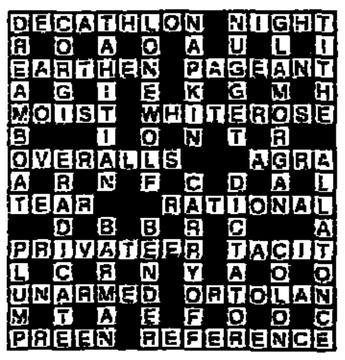
1 Books rough footballers (9).
2 Start to sit on unoccupied edge (5)
3 Verse starts making extra sense (5).
4 Finished a measure of drink (4).
5 In rugger, one bad scrum gets the bird (10).
6 Soldiers overcome with desire for glory (8)
7 Holding up an architectural drawing (9).
8 It transmits sensations from cheek (5).
13 After start of symphony, fix place for slow movement (6,4).
15 Money goes into setting up fatherless child (9)
17 Hay spread around exotic garden shrub (9).
18 Novelist making a point, perhaps (8).
21 Sounds like Cockney lady's man is importunate (6).
22 Attention! Corps about to prepare for battle again (5).
24 Namely, raise the first child (5).
25 Covers up blemish (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,069



```
WINDOWSHOP ATOP
E O N T B   E I
PEACEMAKER SAWN
T H U L I R M E
   SPOKESPERSON
D W M   A C P E
IMITATION OPINE
S N N N C R R D
CHESS TREADMILL
H T H E   P T E
PLAYINGFIELD
L S P R R A B T
IOTA FAMILYTREE
N E   T S E I N
EARL NETHERMOST
```

Solution to Puzzle No 20,074



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DECATHLON NIGHT
R O A O A U L I
EARTHEN PAGEANT
A G I E K G M H
MOIST WHITEROSE
B   I O N T R
OVERALLS   AGRA
A R N F C D A L
TEAR   RATIONAL
  D B B R C   A
PRIVATEER TACIT
L C R N Y A O O
UNARMED ORTOLAN
M T A E F O O C
PREEN REFERENCE
```

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *D C Sherring, Bowlish, Shepton Mallet; R M Pawson, Redcar, Cleveland; A McLeod, Wanstead, London; J Hunter, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire; J Borsberry, Pittville Lawn, Cheltenham.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

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For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	735

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises 7.47 am — Sun sets 4.40 pm

Moon sets 12.32 am — Moon rises 10.52 am

First quarter today

London 4.40 pm to 7.46 am
Bristol 4.50 pm to 7.52 am
Edinburgh 4.34 pm to 8.16 am
Manchester 4.44 pm to 8.02 am
Penzance 5.06 pm to 8.07 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises 7.45 am — Sun sets 4.42 pm

Moon sets 1.37 am — Moon rises 11.22 am

Full moon February 4

London 4.42 pm to 7.45 am
Bristol 4.52 pm to 7.54 am
Edinburgh 4.36 pm to 8.14 am
Manchester 4.43 pm to 8.00 am
Penzance 5.08 pm to 8.01 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aberdeen	6.15	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Avonmouth	11.46	[illegible]		
Belfast	4.35	[illegible]	4.25	3.4
Cardiff	11.40	[illegible]		
Devonport	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dover	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5.5
Dublin (N Wall)	4.35	[illegible]	4.56	3.7
Falmouth	[illegible]	4.5	[illegible]	4.2
Greenock	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Harwich	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.42	[illegible]
Holyhead	[illegible]	4.9	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hull (Albert D)	11.56	[illegible]	[illegible]	5.7
Ilfracombe	10.46	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
King's Lynn	11.12	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Leith	7.41	4.9	[illegible]	4.8
Liverpool	[illegible]	8.4	[illegible]	8.4
Lowestoft	7.45	2.4	[illegible]	2.1
Margate	[illegible]	4.5	[illegible]	[illegible]
Milford Haven	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Newquay	10.00	[illegible]	10.32	[illegible]
Oban	10.32	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Penzance	4.27	[illegible]	[illegible]	4.5
Portland	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1.5
Portsmouth	4.00	4.4	4.19	4.1
Shoreham	3.52	[illegible]	4.15	5.4
Southampton	3.25	4.2	3.42	4.0
Swansea	11.11	8.2	[illegible]	7.9
Tees	6.55	4.7	[illegible]	[illegible]
Walton-on-Naze	4.04	2.9	4.41	3.7

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: [illegible], Shetland, 4C (39F); lowest day max: [illegible], Suffolk, -3C (27F); highest rainfall: Aberdeen, 0.2in; highest sunshine: Oxford, 6.4hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have a very cold day with temperatures below freezing in many places. *There will be frequent snow* showers in eastern areas, where the snow will be blown around in fresh winds. Western parts will have more scattered showers with some brighter spells.

Northern Ireland and western Scotland will have some sunshine and just a few snow showers. Eastern Scotland will be cold with frequent snow showers.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands:** mainly cloudy. Some snow showers. Wind northeast moderate. Max -3C (27F).

☐ **E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** frequent snow showers, drifting in the wind. Wind east to *northeast fresh to strong. Max -2C to 0* (28 to 32F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales:** mainly dry. Some sunshine. Wind northeast moderate to fresh. Max -1C (30F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Central N, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** *mostly cloudy. Some snow showers.* Wind east to northeast fresh. Max -3 to -2C (27 to 28F).

☐ **Isle of Man, N Ireland:** a few snow showers. Wind east to northeast fresh. Max 1 or 2C (34 to 36F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny intervals. Scattered snow *showers. Wind east to northeast.* Max 2 or 3C (36 to 37F).

☐ **Outlook:** staying cold. *Snow showers especially in the east.*

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.1	0.20	2	36	h
Anglesey	4.4	0.01	3	37	sn
Aspatria	4.2	-	1	34	sn
Aviemore	0.1	0.02	0	32	sn
Belfast	4.6	-	3	37	[illegible]
Birmingham	2.1	-	0	32	sn
Bognor R	5.2	-	-1	30	b
Bournem'th	-	-	0	32	sn
Bristol	5.8	0.12	1	34	s
Buxton	-	0.01	-2	[illegible]	sn
Cardiff	5.1	-	1	34	[illegible]
Clacton	x				
Cleethorpes	x				
Colwyn Bay	1.2	-	1	34	[illegible]
Cromer	-	-	-1	[illegible]	sn
Doncaster	x				
Eastbourne	1.2	-	-2	[illegible]	sn
Edinburgh	3.1	0.09	3	37	sn
Eskdalemuir	1.2	0.07	1	[illegible]	sn
Exmouth	5.5	-	0	32	sn
Falmouth	1.8	-	-1	30	b
Fishguard	x				
Folkestone	-	0.15	-3	27	sn
Glasgow	1.5	0.02	2	36	sn
Guernsey	-	-	3	37	sn
Hastings	0.3	0.01	-3	27	sn
Hayling I	4.0	-	-1	30	sn
Herne Bay	-	-	-3	27	sn
Hove	0.8	-	-2	[illegible]	sn
Hunstanton	3.3	-	-1	30	sn
Ilfracombe	4.5	-	0	32	s
Isle of Man	2.2	-	2	36	sn
Jersey	-	0.05	1	34	sn
Kinloss	1.3	0.10	2	36	sn
Leeds	0.2	0.02	0	32	sn
Lerwick	-		2	36	[illegible]

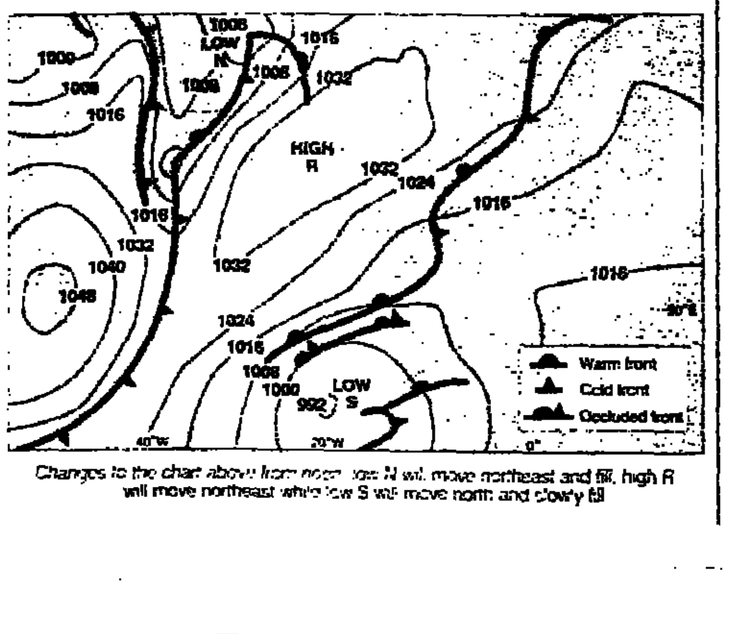
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Leuchars	2.9	0.10	3	37	sn
Littlehmptn	4.5	-	-1	30	sn
Liverpool	6.0	-	1	34	sn
London	2.1	x	-1	30	sn
Lowestoft	-	0.01	-3	27	sn
Manchester	0.4	0.05	0	32	sn
Margate	-	-	-3	27	sn
Minehead	2.1	-	0	32	sn
Morecambe	5.5	-	2	36	sn
Newcastle	1.5	x	2	36	sn
Newquay	x				
Oxford	6.4	-	0	32	s
Penzance	5.6	-	1	34	s
Plymouth	x				
Poole	4.2	-	0	32	b
Prestatyn	x	-	2	36	sn
Ross-o-wye	2.2		-1	30	sn
Ryde	x				
Salcombe	x				
Sandown	5.6	-	-1	30	[illegible]
Saunton Snd	4.4	-	1	34	s
Scarboro	0.3	0.05	1	34	sn
Shanklin	-	-	-1	30	b
Shrewsbury	2.2	0.01	0	32	sn
Skegness	1.0	-	1	34	sn
Southend	0.1	-	-2	28	sn
Southsea	2.9	-	-1	30	sn
Stornoway	1.6		3	37	b
Swanage	4.0	-	0	32	b
Teignmouth	2.7	-	2	36	s
Tiree	5.2	-	4	39	s
Torquay	2.6	-	2	36	s
Tynemouth	x				
Ventnor	5.3	-	1	30	[illegible]
Weston-s-mare	x				
Weymouth	5.2	-	0	32	s

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	[illegible]	56	f	*Cologne*	-7	19	sn
Akrotiri	15	59	f	Corfu	15	59	f
Alex'dria	16	61	f	C'phagn	-4	25	sn
Algiers	16	61	f	Dublin	1	34	sn
Amst'dm	-9	16	sn	Dubrovnik	11	52	f
Athens	16	61	f	Faro	15	59	f
B Aires	23	[illegible]	[illegible]	Florence	11	52	f
Bahrain	18	64	s	Frankfurt	-5	23	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Funchal	15	59	f
Barbados	x			*Geneva*	-2	[illegible]	[illegible]
Barcelona	13	55	[illegible]	Gibraltar	14	57	s
Beirut	16	61	f	Helsinki	-13	9	s
Belfast	2	36	[illegible]	Hong K	15	59	f
Belgrade	1	34	s	*Innsbrck*	1	34	f
Berlin	-10	14	s	Istanbul	10	50	[illegible]
Bermuda	19	66	s	Jeddah	31	88	s
Biarritz	14	57	s	Jo'burg	19	66	f
Bordx	10	50	f	Karachi	x		
Brussels	-7	19	c	L Angels	12	54	s
Budapest	-5	23	c	L Palmas	20	68	s
Cairo	21	70	s	Le Touquet	-5	23	s
Cape Tn	23	73	s	Lisbon	12	54	f
Ch'church	16	61	s	Luxembg	-6	21	sn
Chicago	x			Luxor	26	79	s

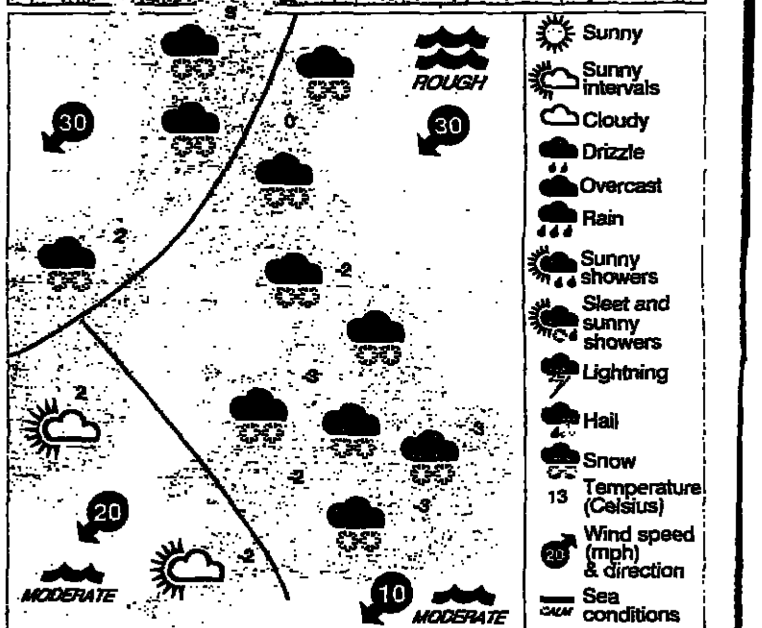
	C	F			C	F	
Madrid	5	41	f	*Rome*	14	57	s
Majorca	15	59	f	S Fr'sco	9	48	s
Malaga	11	52	f	S Paulo	33	91	f
Malta	13	55	f	Salzburg	-5	23	f
Melb'rne	20	68	s	Santiago	28	82	s
Monte C	19	66	s	Seoul	-1	30	s
Miami	25	77	c	Sing'por	31	88	f
Milan	4	39	f	St'kholm	-5	23	s
Montreal	-13	9	-	Strasb'rg	-3	27	sn
Moscow	-15	5	sn	Sydney	24	75	s
Munich	-7	19	c	Tangier	12	54	f
N Delhi	16	64	s	Tel Aviv	17	63	f
N York	0	32	s	Tenerife	19	66	s
Nairobi	27	81	f	Tokyo	6	43	s
Naples	13	[illegible]	s	Toronto	-6	21	c
Nice	11	52	f	Tunis	16	61	f
Oslo	-10	14	s	Valencia	14	57	s
Paris	-3	27	sn	Vanc'ver	-1	30	c
Peking	-3	[illegible]	s	Venice	7	45	f
Perth	26	79	s	Vienna	-5	23	sn
Prague	-9	16	c	Warsaw	-12	10	s
Reykjavik	3	37	s	Wash'ton	2	36	f
Rhodes	15	59	f	Wel'ngton	13	55	r
Riyadh	17	63	s	Zurich	-1	30	c

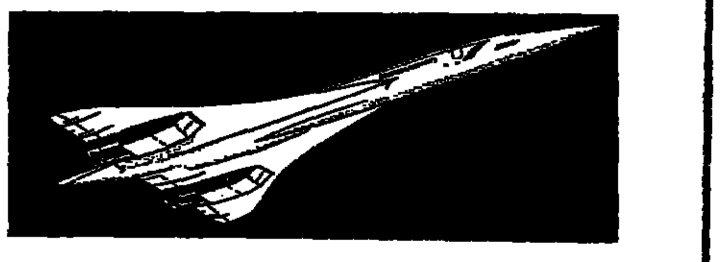
Temperatures at midday local time; x = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low N will move northeast and fill, high R will move northeast while low S will move north and slowly fill

NOON TODAY





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محدا من الاوصل

MELVYN MARCKUS 26

Our City Editor on the Maxwell affair

onday
uesday
ednesday
hursday
riday

FORTE-TUDE 27

Sir Rocco picks himself up and comes out fighting

SPORT 42-48

Why second best simply will not do for Jerry Jones

HIDDEN ASSETS OF SMITH & NEPHEW

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

Sainsbury shares hit by profit warning

By Sarah Bagnall

SAINSBURY'S warned shareholders yesterday that it expects its first drop in profits in 20 years as a public company.

David Sainsbury, chairman of the supermarket group, said that full-year profits would fail to match City expectations, sending the shares 21½p lower to 389p as analysts slashed their forecasts.

In the past year Sainsbury's market share has been eroded and the food retailer has been ousted from the number one slot by Tesco. In an attempt to reinstate itself as Britain's largest supermarket group Sainsbury is to invest millions in customer service and advertising.

Mr Sainsbury said: "Our commitment to enhancing customer service and price competitiveness, together with increased advertising, will reduce profit in the current financial year below earlier expectations."

Sainsbury has hired an extra 2,500 staff in a bid to improve customer service in stores. This will add about £10 million to second-half costs, while increased advertising aimed at communicating more effectively the group's pricing position will cost a further £10 million. In addition, the second-half gross margin is expected to slide as Sainsbury pushes ahead with its pricing promotions.

Analysts cut their forecasts for profits for the year to March 12 from as high as £825 million to about £760 million. The fall in share price was limited, however, by the City's relief that Sainsbury finally appears to be tackling its problems. Philip Dorgan, an analyst at Societe General Strauss Turnbull, said: "If there is such a thing as a good profit warning then this is one because they are investing in areas that need improving."

Tony MacNeary, an analyst at NatWest Securities, has cut his forecast from £787 million, which was at the bottom of the range of forecasts, to £760 million. He said it was too early to tell whether more action would be needed to rectify Sainsbury's position.

Mr Sainsbury said the group's objective was to reclaim the title as Britain's largest food retailer but that the goal would not be achieved by the end of the year.

Like-for-like sales rose 4.5 per cent in the six weeks to January 13, a pick-up in activity that helped underlying sales rise by 3 per cent in the 16 weeks to mid-January. This compares to Tesco's 8.5 per cent advance in like-for-like sales over a similar period. The supermarket business accounts for about 80 per cent of group sales.

Mr Sainsbury said: "We had a record Christmas and importantly the sales growth has moved up a notch. So we are moving in the right direction." The group intends to introduce further promotions. The chairman said: "I am extremely optimistic about our competitive position. Customers have responded well to our January Savers promotion and so we intend to extend it. We have done promotions in the past but none at this strength in either price or communication."

Tempus, page 28

still improving
SAINSBURY'S Where good food costs l
GOOD FOOD CO

Store wars: David Sainsbury, who has promised to extend price promotions

CBI chief defends stance on pay

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

ADAIR TURNER, head of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday insisted that economic growth in Britain would lead to rising real incomes for employees and dismissed the charge that he is advocating a pay free-for-all.

The Director-General of the CBI strongly defended his claim that real wages will rise over the longer term, provided productivity and profitability also increase. Mr Turner maintained that rising real wages are both essential to and an inevitable consequence of the economic growth everyone wanted.

The outcry over his statements on pay made in a speech this week has prompted the CBI to write to member companies to explain his position.

Mr Turner had said that new forms of pay determination, including profit-related and performance-related pay, linked employees more closely to their companies. He jocularly suggested that employees would become "dare I say it, stakeholders" — a clear, if light, reference to the stakeholders idea being promoted by Labour leader Tony Blair.

Labour and the unions welcomed Mr Turner's words, angering ministers who saw it as business giving greater support to Labour than it should.

In its weekly bulletin to members, the CBI spelt out in detail precisely what Mr Turner is saying on pay. However, CBI insiders insisted this did not constitute either an apology or a retraction.

Mr Turner told *The Times* his remarks were about pay in the future, in the medium term, and did not relate to the current wage round. He insisted that economic growth would and should lead to higher real wages, adding that he did not believe it was "contentious" that real wages would increase with economic growth, though he said it was vital to avoid any return to a pay-price spiral.

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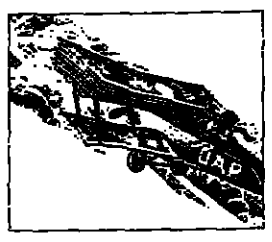

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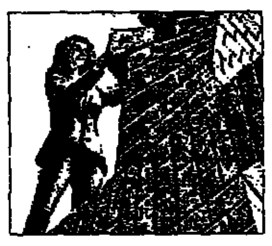

WEEKEND MONEY GUIDES

Part one: A-Z of Personal Finance

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3734.7	(+0.5)
Yield	3.83%	
FT-SE A All share	1828.89	(+0.22)
Nikkei	20683.84	(+249.15)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5249.71	(+32.88)*
S&P Composite	619.06	(+2.03)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5¼%*	(5 9/16%)
Long Bond	110¼*	(110 11/32)
Yield	6.10%*	(6.11%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth interbank	5 7/16%	(5 7/16%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	110 13/16	(111 11/32)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.5035*	(1.5085)
London:		
$	1.5030	(1.5039)
DM	2.2412	(2.2400)
FFr	7.6860	(7.6760)
SFr	1.8152	(1.7992)
Yen	160.33	(160.83)
£ Index	83.1	(83.1)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.4910*	(1.4890)
FFr	5.1250*	(5.1075)
SFr	1.2072*	(1.1975)
Yen	106.55*	(106.85)
$ Index	96.6	(96.3)
Tokyo close Yen 106.80		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Apr)	$16.10	($16.20)
GOLD		
London close	$406.25	($407.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Plug pulled

Liffe pulled the plug on its new £2 million after-hours options trading system just 15 minutes into its debut because of severe faults. The system will not now be available for several weeks.

Planemakers plan super-jumbo jets

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

BOEING of America and Airbus Industrie, the European planemakers' consortium, are set to begin developing rival super-jumbo jets carrying up to 600 passengers. The aircraft will do battle for a market estimated to be worth £160 billion over the next 20 years.

An agreement to study joint development of a super-jumbo, the Very Large Commercial Transport, is expected to be terminated shortly by mutual consent. Boeing will then almost certainly begin work on a $1 billion project to equip its 747 with a new wing and an extended fuselage capable of carrying up to 500 passengers in a three-class configuration.

That will leave Airbus, owned jointly by British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France, Daimler-Benz of Germany, and Casa of Spain, struggling to raise the $9 billion to $10 billion necessary to create an all-new aircraft.

The Europeans must match Boeing's full product range to undermine the ability of their arch-rival to underwrite sales of smaller aircraft.

British Airways and Singapore Airlines have said they want to buy super-jumbos, costing up to $200 million each. According to Airbus studies, 800 such planes could be needed over the next 20 years.

Launch aid, in the form of soft-loans from Britain, France, Germany and Spain, will be limited to a third of funding.

Fokker lifeline, page 26

OFT strips Colorvision of credit licences

By Sarah Bagnall

THE OFFICE of Fair Trading dealt a severe blow to Colorvision yesterday when it stripped the television and video retailer of its consumer credit licences, threatening half the group's profits.

After a three-month investigation the OFT concluded that Colorvision had engaged in business practices that appeared to be either "deceitful or oppressive or otherwise unfair or improper ..." It was also found to have breached consumer protection rules.

The move, the first time the OFT has revoked the licence of a listed company, sent Colorvision's shares down 9p to 30p, a far cry from the June 1988 price of 255p.

Colorvision's management lodged an appeal, which enables the Liverpool-based company and its eight subsidiaries to retain their licences until it is decided. The company said: "The directors ... following receipt of legal advice, intend to pursue the appeal most vigorously."

The company admitted it had been convicted on 20 occasions in 11 years but argued that business practices had improved in recent years.

John Bridgeman, Director-General of the OFT, said: "Revoking a consumer credit licence is not something we do lightly, given the effect it is likely to have on a business. But no company should be in any doubt that its licence can be revoked if it is found to be treating its customers unfairly or dishonestly."

Among the offences cited were the sale of ex-display goods as new, the altering of agreements after they had been signed and without customers' consent, and the entering of false information on credit agreements to aid customers' credit worthiness.

Colorvision said: "The directors utterly refute that any or all of these findings are valid or are good reasons upon which to revoke the licences." The news came as Colorvision revealed losses of £420,000, down from £590,000, in the six months to September 30, on sales £600,000 ahead at £29.7 million. There is no dividend.

Tempus, page 28

Fund manager is contender for vacancy in FT-SE 100

MAM may replace Forte on menu

By Alasdair Murray

Galley: index-hope

FORTE faces the ignominy of being replaced in the FT-SE 100 next week by Mercury Asset Management, the fund management company that helped to end its existence as an independent company.

The FT-SE actuaries index committee, which controls the make-up of the index, yesterday said that Forte will be replaced by the single largest company outside the FT-SE 100 at close of business on January 30. MAM, with a market value of £1.61 billion, is one of five companies in a position to replace Forte. However, MAM, of which Carol Galley is vice-chairman, will need a sharp rise in its share price to guarantee promotion to the FT-SE 100. Greenalls, the pub chain, was valued at £1.75 billion at yesterday's close. Others in the running include Next, the clothing retailer, which is valued at £1.7 billion, MEPC, the property group, valued at £1.66 billion, and Anglian Water (£1.52 billion).

A place in the FT-SE 100 not only gives companies a higher profile, but boosts the share price, because index-tracker funds, which hold a stake in every FT-SE 100 company, need to buy into it.

In the most recent shake-up of the index, last month, Arjo Wiggins Appleton, Midlands Electricity and Inchcape left. To prevent constant flux in the index, companies close to 100th in value are allowed a little latitude in their market price and can fall to 111th before being automatically removed. A company outside the FT-SE 100 must climb to 90th in value before automatic inclusion.

Granada yesterday placed 26 million shares in the market, equivalent to 4.4 per cent of its total capital, through ABN Amro Hoare Govett and BZW. The £180 million placement, a technical adjustment to run down the company's 9.9 per cent stake in Forte, was made at 693p. Market-makers said there were plenty of institutional buyers, and Granada's price closed up 10p, at 714p.

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PORTFOLIO

Realisations from Maxwell's private empire top £700m

MELVYN MARCKUS

◆

The Maxwell affair rumbles inexorably on. A week ago the headlines proclaimed "Maxwell Brothers cleared". Such was the outcome of the 131-day trial presided over by Lord Justice Phillips: a case that is estimated to have cost taxpayers the thick end of £30 million. Today heralds somewhat different headlines. Kevin Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg are to go through the hoop again, this time in respect of alleged conspiracy to defraud banks in relation to shares in Berlitz International, the language enterprise. They will be joined as defendants by Albert Fuller, the ex-head of MCC's Treasury. Michael Stoney, a former director of MGN, faces two charges of false accounting.

In the wake of Maxwell Trial I, *The Times* published a five-part series — Hunt for the Missing Millions — which analysed Arthur Andersen's administration of Robert Maxwell's private empire. Legal wheels grind on as do the wheels of the largest and most complex corporate recovery operation ever undertaken in the UK. It is more than four years since Robert Maxwell's sprawling business empire, set against a Pyrenees of debt, came under the control of Arthur Andersen's joint administrators led by John Talbot. During that time, more than 250.000 man-hours have been clocked up on the realisation of assets, the international investigation of Maxwell's corporate legacy, and the agreement of creditors' claims.

Robert Maxwell's controversial business practices have made global headlines but, until now, the administration, that started in December 1991, has received minimal publicity. Talbot is a low-profile operator, much in keeping with the ambience at Arthur Andersen, which sports a logo that makes the most of two closed doors.

Much of the core investigative work, carried out by Arthur Andersen's special unit, dubbed "the untouchables", was completed by the summer of 1992. Major claims were identified and the emphasis progressed towards negotiated settlements or, failing that, litigation.

The investigation unit, spearheaded by Chris Currington and Leonie Grimes, also provided information to the authorities. This included liaison with MPs, Commons select committees, the Serious Fraud Office, engaged in a multi-facet probe into Robert Maxwell's curiosity shop, and Department of Trade and Industry inspectors. It was in June 1992 that the DTI appointed John Thomas QC and accountant Raymond Turner to investigate and report on the "affairs and membership" of MGN — particularly affairs pertaining to the previous year's "ring-fenced" flotation. Maxwell Trial I has served to delay publication of the DTI report which, presumably, will be further delayed by yesterday's developments.

It was in the autumn of 1992 that Talbot informed the Commons Social Security Select Committee, chaired by Frank Field, the Labour MP, that realisations at end-July amounted to £110 million. Some 52 of 55 trading businesses had been sold. Administration and legal fees amounted to £6 million and £5 million respectively — 10 per cent of the proceeds. In addition to this, the investigative work had yielded recoveries of some £4 million at a cost of around £400.000. The select committee, in a subsequent 30-page report, stated that "unravelling the chaos and confusion left by Robert Maxwell" had so far cost creditors, including the pensioners, some £50 million. In the opinion of Field and his colleagues: "The total cost could exceed £100 million." It was also disclosed that despite the select committee's repeated requests for information concerning fees from various administrators, only Talbot had responded in detail.

Tony Brierley, another administrator, emphasises that the vast majority of asset realisations have been completed. In his words: "The assets that I dealt with in Eastern Europe required considerable patience. Almost the only assets that remain are property, based in the UK."

Maxwell's empire was long on property assets. Peter Tuch, the Arthur Andersen partner who acted as central co-ordinator to the entire administration, says: "We adopt an owner's mentality to property assignments and take a long-term view. By managing the projects ourselves we find that we are able to control costs and maximise site values, as has been the case with Maxwell's portfolio."

One of the quirks of the administration process is that it does not allow administrators to distribute funds. According to Tuch: "We had to ensure that the method of distribution was the most beneficial for creditors. Liquidation appeared expensive and after discussions with the creditor committees it was agreed that the most appropriate route was by way of company voluntary arrangements." He adds: "Some 40 CVAs have been approved and an adjudication team has been working full time to agree claims. Distributions started at the bottom of Maxwell's pyramid and some £80 million has been paid to unsecured creditors."

Distributions from nearer the top of the pyramid, involving companies such as Robert Maxwell Group, Headington Holdings and London & Bishopsgate Group, have been complicated by the vast flows of funds in and out of Maxwell's "private side". A scheme has been approved to pool the corporate trio's assets for distribution.

As the table shows, overall realisations amount to some £716 million. The Big Man's "toys", including the *Lady Ghislaine* and the Gulfstream GIV, raised some £20 million, while investigation recoveries are understood to have contributed more than £100 million to the £189 million item. The sales of *Ma'ariv* and *The European* accounted for £8.5 million and just over £3 million respectively. Gross private side indebtedness amounts to between £1.75 billion and £2 billion, including intercompany debts. Some £276 million is currently being held by companies under the administration's control.

Fees to date are reputed to amount to less than 4 per cent of the £716 million worth of realisations: significantly more productive than the legal show.

REALISATIONS

Source	£ million
MGN share sale	373
Other newspapers	17
AGB	52
British International Helicopters	31
Robert Maxwell's "toys"	20
Miscellaneous businesses, other assets and investigation recoveries	189
Interest	34
Total to date	716

Distributions to date: £440 million

Frederick Cooper warning

Frederick Cooper, the metals engineering group, warned shareholders that operating profits for the six months to January 31 would be "significantly below" those earned in the corresponding period a year ago.

However, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, total dividends are expected to be slightly in excess of the 2.5p paid for the year ended July 31, 1995. The shares fell 6p to 48p.

OGC pegs offer

OGC International ruled out an increase in its agreed offer for OIS International Inspection, the oil industry services company, after Abbot Group, the engineering concern, increased the value of its original bid to £9.94 million from £8.25 million and acquired a 20 per cent stake in the company. Abbot's bid is worth 32p a share in cash, with an all-shares alternative, against OGC's offer of 28p.

Bland resigns

Sir Christopher Bland has resigned as non-executive director of Nynex Cablecomms Group, the cable television and telephony company, with effect from January 1 after his appointment as chairman of the board of governors of the BBC.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"The middle-aged man, watched by a small group of dazed colleagues, cut the inscription "A member of Daimler-Benz Aerospace" from the company's blue emblem and left the name Fokker to flutter alone at half-mast . . ."

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

Fokker is offered short-term lifeline

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE Dutch Government is offering a temporary loan of 255 million guilders (£124 million) to administrators of Fokker, the stricken regional aircraft group, to provide a breathing space while buyers are sought for the business.

Government orders for four Fokker planes worth 110 million guilders are being brought forward to help to keep the factory at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport in work. But Hans Wijers, the Dutch Economics Minister, said that there was "no reason whatsoever for great optimism" about a rescue. Although speculators continued to buy Fokker shares, the minister said the company "faces very great problems".

Although the holding company and its commercial aircraft business are in administration, the company's aircraft servicing and defence arms are trading normally.

One of the three administrators, Rutger Schimmelpenninck, said that he did not rule out finding a solution for the whole of Fokker. "I don't want to express pessimism or optimism — there are still too many open ends," he said. "The situation is worrying. Let's not forget that. But there is hope."

Bombardier, the Canadian group tipped to acquire Fokker's regional jet business, said again that it had "shown no interest". It already owns de Havilland, Canadair and Short Brothers of Belfast.

Short Brothers, which makes wings and other assemblies for Fokker's jets, has already taken preliminary steps to make up to 1,500 workers redundant.

The chances of finding a buyer, or partner, appear slim, particularly within the four-week reprieve from creditors granted to Fokker by a court in The Netherlands.

Mr Wijers said that the difficulties of finding a rescuer in an industry "with large financial risks, continuing overcapacity and ruinous prices" were not good. "For the time being it is just words and paper," he said. He added that the Government would insist on market rates for its loans.

Trustees for some bonds issued by Fokker have begun moves to require their repayment. Commerzbank in Germany, which held bonds issued on Fokker's behalf, responded to speculation about the likely impact on its profits by stating that it had accounted for all possible risks in its 1995 accounts. This was interpreted as an indication that it had already written down some of the debt.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.13	1.97
Austria Sch	16.73	15.29
Belgium Fr	49.15	44.85
Canada $	2.181	2.021
Cyprus Cyp£	0.752	0.699
Denmark Kr	9.35	8.50
Finland Mkk	7.47	6.82
France Fr	8.14	7.49
Germany Dm	2.40	2.19
Greece Dr	392.00	367.00
Hong Kong $	12.29	11.25
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1000	4.4500
Italy Lira	2592.00	2377.00
Japan Yen	174.90	159.90
Malta	0.580	0.534
Netherlands Gld	2.693	2.459
New Zealand $	2.41	2.19
Norway Kr	10.43	9.63
Portugal Esc	244.50	225.70
S Africa Rd	[illegible]	5.26
Spain Pta	197.50	184.50
Sweden Kr	11.42	10.32
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.79
Turkey Lira	[illegible]	82425.0
USA $	1.604	1.474

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Different picture: John Partridge, the chairman of Partridge Fine Arts, reported a fall in profits to £1.9 million from £2.8 million last year. The dividend is cut to 2.9p from 3.3p

News Corp and MCI in US move

By George Sivell

MCI, the communications group, is to team up with The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, to offer information and entertainment services to businesses and consumers across America via direct broadcast satellite.

The announcement follows MCI's successful $682 million bid in the Federal Communications Commission auction for the last remaining direct broadcast satellite slot to provide coverage of all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

Bert C. Roberts, chairman and chief executive officer of MCI, said: "This new venture is a perfect marriage of MCI's sales and marketing skills, customer base and billing abilities with News Corp's expertise in entertainment and information programming.

"We are especially excited about our ability to create unique new information products for our customers, a strategy that will clearly put us out in front of our competitors."

Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, said: "This new venture demonstrates the strength of our strategic relationship with MCI. Working with MCI, News Corp will leverage its leadership in the worldwide entertainment and information business to bring exciting new video and information services to American consumers."

Company failure at 6-year low

By Martin Barrow

THE number of company failures fell last year to its lowest point since 1989. Figures published by KPMG yesterday show that there were 1.755 receiverships, a 14 per cent decrease over 1994's figure of 2.040.

The fall was evenly spread across the UK with nearly all regions witnessing a decline. However, the rate of decline appeared to diminish during 1995. Between the first and second quarters the number fell by nearly 11 per cent, but between the third and fourth quarters the fall was nearer to 3 per cent.

The annual rate, in percentage terms, is also declining. Between 1992 and 1993 the number fell 34 per cent, and between 1993 and 1994 by 28 per cent. But between 1994 and 1995 it was just 14 per cent. KPMG said the slower rate suggested the level of company failures is nearing a point of natural wastage, where companies fail irrespective of economic conditions.

Tim Hayward, KPMG's head of corporate recovery, said the diminishing numbers could also be attributed to the willingness of banks to assist struggling debtors, and to the much stronger line taken by companies against their debtors.

☐ *The civil engineering industry* is being hit by a "deepening slump", according to a gloomy new report today. A low level of invitations to tender for new work points to a big fall in workload and jobs over the coming months, it warned, after a survey of 121 contractors.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

British-Borneo in £54m rights issue

BRITISH-BORNEO Petroleum Syndicate is raising £54.1 million through a two-for-five rights issue at 310p per new ordinary share to finance exploration and development of deep-water oilfields in the Gulf of Mexico. It also announced a pre-tax profit of £13.6 million for last year, up 20 per cent. Oil and gas revenues were also up 20 per cent to £38.4 million. Existing shares rose 32p, to 410p.

Alan Gaynor, chief executive of British-Borneo, which already operates in the North Sea and shallow-water areas of the Gulf of Mexico, said the new development is an "opportunity ... giving us a competitive advantage over our peers for the next 12 to 18 months". Last month, the company entered into an agreement with Shell to develop and exploit the Morpeth oilfield, which has estimated reserves of around 50 million barrels.

Tempus, page 28

NSM warns of loss

NSM, the mining company, yesterday said that it was likely to incur a loss in the second half of the year after being hit by a number of problems, including an out-of-court settlement, severe weather and lower prices. The company acquired Ryan Mining for £25 million last year but is also looking to make about £15 million from disposals. It said it expected to be profitable for the year, but if a number of disposals were not completed before March there would be a second-half loss.

Grosvenor Inns ahead

GROSVENOR INNS, the bar and pub company, announced a 27 per cent rise in half-year profits to £913,000 before tax. The company, whose pubs include the Slug and Lettuce, Hedgehog and Hogshead and Belchers chains, also said it was buying out the 20 per cent minority stake in Bar Central for up to £1.95 million. The costs will be covered with a share issue. The company, which secured a full Stock Exchange listing last August, increased turnover 24 per cent to £8.7 million. The dividend was raised 10 per cent to 2.75p, payable on March 15.

Porsche accelerates

PORSCHE, the German sports car manufacturer, said its turnaround was continuing, with profits of DM100 million expected for the first half of the 1996 fiscal year. After three years of losses, it reported a profit of DM2.1 million for the year to July 31. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting yesterday that group revenues were up 19 per cent to about DM1.4 billion in the first six months of the fiscal year to January 31, against DM1.19 billion last time. Car sales rose 17 per cent to 9.569 during the same period.

Caird plans refinancing

CAIRD GROUP, the troubled waste management company, announced a major refinancing, including a debt reduction, the restructuring of ordinary and preference shares and an issue of convertible loan stock to raise £5 million. Yorkshire Bank, the group's principal banker, will be repaid £5 million, and has agreed to write off a further £7 million of the debt and to extend new facilities of £7.7 million. The issue is underwritten by CRBF, an investment fund owning 11 per cent of Caird.

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: SIR ROCCO FORTE

Indiarubber man bounces back into the fray

Mary Riddell finds that quiet pride in defeat is tempered by a fierce determination to succeed in the complex world of business

IT WAS, in the end, more of a celebration than a wake. Two days after the party to mark the demise of the Forte empire, Sir Rocco's staff paused in corridors now Granada-owned to discuss battles past — and hangovers that were still vaguely present.

Sir Rocco, by contrast, remained at all times clear-headed, although he, too, had enjoyed his evening. "These things can be such funerals, but this one was not. We lost, but it almost seemed as if we had won," he said.

It was late on Tuesday night when he left the Café Royal, where he once worked in the cellars for £4 a week, and stepped into his chauffeur-driven car, abandoning, as a special concession to the extraordinariness of the day, his normal habit of jogging five miles home.

Sir Rocco did not pause, for he is not a backward-looking man, to reflect on the enormity of the realisation that his business, nurtured and built up from the first milk bar his father bought, had fallen to Granada's £3.8 billion hostile takeover.

Instead he slept for a few hours, woke as normal at 5am and lay in bed to consider what he would do next. "I hadn't focused on anything until then. It would have been so defeatist. But on Wednesday morning I started to think very hard. Granada had said they didn't want to keep a lot of the hotels, and I thought the best person to buy them was me."

> ‘I'd prepared myself and was stoical. I had to show strength’

Shortly after dawn, the phone rang at the home of one of Sir Rocco's financial advisers. "Let's get busy," said the brisk voice on the other end of the line. And so, later that day, the City learnt to its astonishment that Sir Rocco was working on a potential £2.5 billion management buyout of the Forte hotel empire. "I put it to Gerry Robinson, and he thought it a good idea, so we'll have a look at it."

The voice is still brisk, his manner temperate, and one can only marvel at the indiarubber resilience of Sir Rocco Forte. To suggest that this has been a tough week would be the baldest understatement, and the signs of strain are, however faintly, present.

The eyes are red from tiredness, the patent-shod feet twitch with nervous energy, and he sifts his hands through his hair in a frequent and weary gesture. "Oh, I probably need a holiday, but I'm certainly not going to take one now."

Such luxuries evaporated on the day, late last November, when he was informed that the fight was on. He was shaving at the time, in preparation for a day's shooting. Pheasant, he stresses, and not — as reported — grouse.

The perfect country gentleman, Sir Rocco is baffled by the British ignorance of the sporting calendar. For hostile takeover bids, however outmoded, there is no close season. Gerry Robinson had mounted his attack.

The first, insomniac days and nights were the worst, he says now. The worry, the long hours of traipsing round the institutions, formulating his defence strategy. There were harsh words, bitter clashes and now, you imagine, quite the hardest thing must be sitting round a table with Mr Robinson, attempting politely to stitch a deal together.

"I'm not someone for looking back. I'm not the sort of person who carries any bitterness or rancour. They are very destructive feelings, and anyway, you're channelling energy away from yourself. Anything said or not said, done or not done is past and forgotten. That's what I told Granada."

And, besides, in his heart, he knew. By the beginning of this week, Sir Rocco had mentally adjusted himself for the worst, and when it came, he was calm.

"I'd prepared myself for the outcome, and I was stoical," he said. "Everyone here was so upset, and I had to be the one to show strength."

Whitbread declined to join him in a defensive strategy, and still he laid contingency plans. "We had some firepower ready," he said. "We'd have gone in and bought 6 per cent with family money and other supporters."

But the endgame was being played out. At 2.30 on Tuesday afternoon, Sir Rocco learnt that Granada had won. Earlier that day he had been told that Mercury Asset Management, holder of a 14.4 per cent stake, was not coming with him. When Carol Galley, its vice-chairman, walked into his office, decorated with clusters of portraits of his wife, Aliai, and their three children, he was scrupulously polite. "I said I thought it was the wrong decision. That was all."

Afterwards he sat and mourned. Not for himself because he is careful not to confuse business with sentiment, but for those — the executives, the chefs and the waiters — who had worked so tirelessly for him.

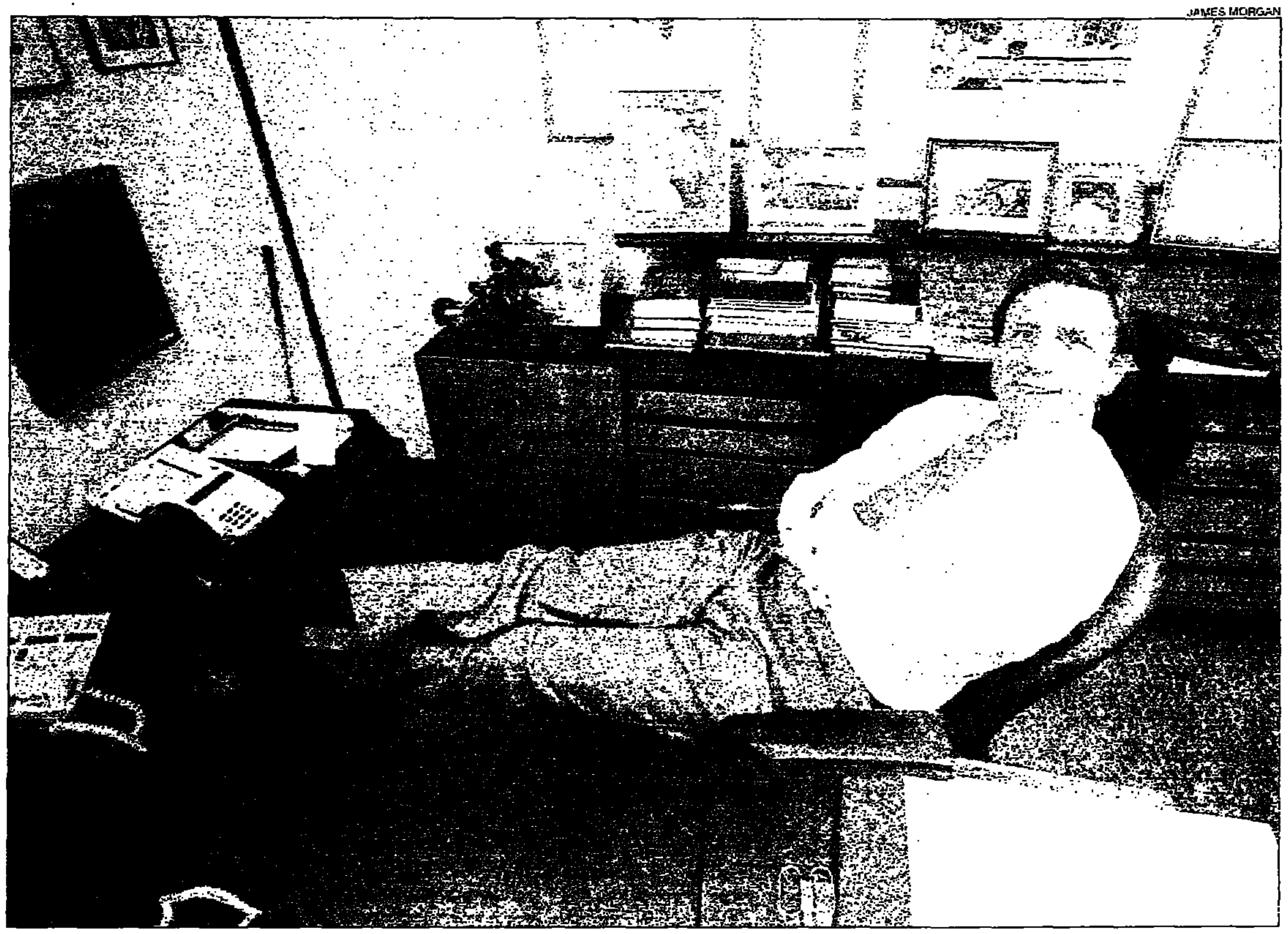
"That was the lowest point, emotionally. There were a couple of difficult hours." Somewhere in them, Sir Rocco picked up the phone and spoke to his father. How, you wonder, could Lord Forte, now 87, cope with such devastating news.

It was he who, as an Italian immigrant, had built the business from nothing. He who had travelled to Downside School in Somerset to instruct his beloved and only son in the entrepreneurial art; he who had watched as his heir progressed, via an undistinguished Oxford languages degree and a stint as an accountant, to take over as the head of the empire.

"We don't need a white knight," Lord Forte had said, as the bid progressed. "We've got Rocco." But in the moment of defeat, he too was calm.

"It's even worse for him than me," Sir Rocco said. "He put so much effort into starting up the business and developing it. But he's a tough cookie and as resilient as anyone, even at his age. All he said to me was: 'You've done well'."

JAMES MORGAN



Lying in wait: Sir Rocco relaxing before the battle for Forte finally swung Granada's way. Now his energies are focused on a plan to buy back the hotels

Although Sir Rocco is a carefully unemotional man, that tribute meant much to him. Acutely conscious of defusing any notion that Forte was a sort of family fiefdom, he must surely have been constrained by the sniping, however unfair, that any triumph belonged to his father and any failure to him.

"Well, if people ever thought that, they can't do so now. And no, I don't feel guilty. I feel rather proud, actually." Of himself, of his staff, but also of his family.

Sir Rocco, who was 51 last week, married when he was 41 and admits that in the first years, "always the most difficult ones", he had difficulty in remembering that he must take someone else's wishes into account.

But his marriage to Aliai has been a happy one, and she has remained his chief solace during the past week.

"Your wife has to put up with a lot, and she has," Sir Rocco said. "She's been terrific. She's on the outside, watching, listening, over-disturbed by what newspapers are saying when they don't have all the facts. And I'm getting home late and tired and not really feeling like talking about things."

It has, on average, been 10.30pm when Sir Rocco has jogged through his Chelsea front door, expecting his dinner to be prepared. "I'm a bit of a male chauvinist, I suppose, and she's a wonderful homemaker and mother. She was very upset by some article saying all she did was go out to parties. She's not like that at all."

As for Sir Rocco, his domestic skills are minimal, although — his current worries notwithstanding — he did find time recently to rustle up an omelette for the children. "They said it was the best one they had ever tasted."

In hotels, by contrast, he is a domestic scourge, frequently to be found in the kitchen of the Meridien or the George V or the Grosvenor House, sorting through the refrigerators for evidence of perfect housekeeping.

He will miss that, as he will miss so much, but he will be back, he hopes, on the same familiar territory. "We're the most natural buyers. We've transformed this business into what it is. We know it backwards, and I think we'll find the backing to do it," he said.

If he does not succeed he will return in some other venture (as chief executive, this time, with an outside chairman, for he has grown more sensitive to City preference). The lure will not be money alone, since his £80 million personal fortune renders him secure enough.

"Why do I want to start again? Because I'm ambitious. I have drive and energy, and I don't want to retire and live in the country and play golf and nothing else. There's a creative side to business which people forget — as creative as drawing a wonderful painting or composing a piece of music.

"Just being rich isn't the be-all and end-all. If I reach old age I want to look back and say: 'I've given it everything I had. I've made the best of what I was born with. I've been a success'."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Temple of literary delights is home to healthcare group

Eric Reguly tours Astor House, now the London HQ of Smith & Nephew

Eddie Brooks has vivid memories of the time he started to run out of enthusiasm for conducting bus tours. In 1980, he escorted 38 London nurses to a beer festival in Belgium, checking them into a hotel called the Parrot in Ostend. "They ripped two doors out of the bedrooms and threw them off the balcony," he said. "Then they wrecked four cars ... plucked all the feathers off the stuffed parrot in the lobby and hung a sign around its neck saying 'The Streaker'."

The mob was escorted by police to the French border and Mr Brooks, now 54, eventually became the housekeeper at 2 Temple Place, the London headquarters of Smith & Nephew, the healthcare company best known for Nivea and Elastoplast.

But Mr Brooks soon found that "housekeeper" is a misnomer. Temple Place, also known as Astor House, is such an architectural gem that he spends much of his time guiding clients and other visitors through its handsome rooms, a job that he loves doing.

Temple Place, on the Victoria Embankment, was built in 1895 as the residence and office of William Waldorf Astor, the wealthy American businessman who emigrated to Britain in 1890 after a distinguished career as politician, diplomat and newspaper proprietor.

Astor, later the first Viscount Astor, spent what was then a fortune, $1.5 million, on Temple Place. The fairly small, two-storey house is built of Portland stone and rests on a concrete base 16ft thick. The floors are of marble, jasper, porphyry and onyx laid in geometrical patterns. The walls are of English oak, Spanish mahogany and pencil cedar and the pillars are of solid ebony.

DES JENSON

A cherub at the entrance commemorates that the house was the first in London to have a telephone installed

While the materials are impressive, what was made of them is remarkable.

"Astor loved the theatre and literature," Mr Brooks said, and Temple Place is dedicated to the works of which he was most fond. On the posts of the main staircase are carved figures from *The Three Musketeers* — including d'Artagnan, Milady and Aramis — created by Thomas Nicholls. The frieze at the top of the gallery depicts scenes from *Othello*, *Antony and Cleopatra* and *Macbeth*. The great hall, which was Astor's private office and living room, is the highlight of the tour. It is 71ft long and has a ceiling, a lovely example of Gothic timberwork, that is 35ft high. Smith & Nephew uses it for board meetings and to impress visitors, but little else.

Fifty carved portraits — among them Dante, Captain Cook, Bismarck, Machiavelli and Michelangelo — adorn the hall's frieze. Astor had them covered in gold leaf so that he could see them more clearly.

The listed mahogany door on the hall's north side depicts nine figures from Arthurian legend and was once displayed at the Royal Academy. In 1944, when a flying bomb hit its west side, the fireplace was shattered. More damage might have been done had it not been for the protection afforded by the 75-ton safe in the adjoining room.

Smith & Nephew has had Temple House valued at £5 million but considers it priceless. It has no desire to move — the central location is perfect and the company finds it a useful marketing tool; clients and potential customers are always eager to visit. The company also finds that the maintenance costs are minimal because the house is so well-built.

The rest of Britain will get a chance to see Temple Place later this year on television. It was used in the new BBC series *Madson*, about a company of solicitors, and the dapper Mr Brooks, transformed from guide to law partner, is in several scenes.

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• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

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INVESTMENT GROUP

STOCK MARKET PHILIP PANGALOS

Late recovery sparked by improving US bonds

DES JENSON

Bill Colvin, right, and Alan Gaynor of British Borneo saw shares soar on news of a discounted rights issue

SHARES ended the week on a mildly positive note after a rebound on Wall Street and a technical recovery by US bonds helped to bolster sentiment in late London trading, offsetting weaker gilts and futures markets.

The FT-SE 100 index, down 19.7 points at one stage, recovered to finish the day up 0.5 at 3,734.7, giving a loss of 13.7 points on the week. Volume reached 740 million shares.

Volume was boosted by 51.7 million shares in **Granada**, 10p stronger at 714p. The bulk of this arose after one seller, understood to have been Granada itself, sold 25 million shares to ABN Amro Hoare Govett and BZW, which in turn placed them within range of institutional investors at the 693p level.

Forte, up 6p to 402p, is due to be replaced as a constituent of the FT-SE 100 index after the close on Tuesday. It will be replaced by the largest company on the reserve list, which includes **Mercury Asset Management**, up 16½p to 899½p, the fund management group that played a key role in Granada's battle for control of Forte. Others on the reserve list are **Next**, 2p firmer at 456p, **Greenalls**, down 2p at 603p, **MEPC**, off 4p at 404p, and **Anglian Water**, 2p lower at 565p.

Food retailers suffered a bout of indigestion after Sainsbury, the supermarket group, highlighted the competitive conditions gripping the industry by making what amounted to a profits warning. Sainsbury said in its January trading statement that a buoyant Christmas helped it to lift sales by 5 per cent in the 16 weeks to January 13, but profits were hit by high promotional activity which will depress second-half margins and dent profits. The news saw anlaysts downgrade their profit forecasts.

Tony McNeary at NatWest Securities has reduced his pretax profit forecast for the current year to March from £787 million to £760 million, with next year's estimate trimmed from £827 million to £815 million.

Sainsbury shares tumbled 21½p to 389p on volume of 17.7 million, while **Asda Group** eased 1½p to 106½p as 10.8 million shares were traded. **Argyll**, which owns Safeway, fell ½p to 335p. **Kwik Save** 6p to 505p and **Iceland** 2p to 157p.

British Steel was the best perfoming FT-SE share, adding 4½p, or 2.79 per cent, to 166p on volume of 5.79 million shares. Demand was fuelled after positive noises from United Steel in the US, pointing to strong orders and recovery hopes.

P&O, which is rumoured to be a potential break-up candidate, was the second best perfomer among FT-SE stocks with the shipping to property group steaming ahead 13p to 542p, giving a two-day gain of 25½p. Many in the City believe the group is ripe for takeover, particularly in view of its channel ferries operation suffering loss of market share as it fights it out with **Eurotunnel**, unchanged at 80p.

Talk is that a European group may be interested in launching a bid for the ferries company, thouygh a healthy 7.2 per cent yield has also attracted investor attention. The bid stories were fuelled after UBS suggested a 700p-a-share break-up value on the company, underpinned by its strong property portfolio, said to be worth about £1.7 billion.

Thorn EMI jumped 34p to £16.73, with demand for shares boosted by the demerger of Thorn's music business later this year and speculative talk of a possible bid from either Seagram of the US or Siemens of Germany.

Elsewhere, **Rolls-Royce**, which makes Fokker aero engines, climbed 1½p to 199p on news that Fokker has struck an interim deal with the Dutch Government and its creditor banks on a financing package.

British Aerospace added 9p to 575p after the company confirmed that it is dropping its joint investigation into building a super jumbo-jet with Boeing.

News that **British Borneo** hopes to raise £54.1 million through a two-for-five discounted rights issue, at 310p a share, was well received by the market. Shares in the independent oil and gas exploration company jumped 32p to 410p. The group plans to use the proceeds to finance new business in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The rights was supported by a 20 per cent rise in full-year pre-tax profits to £13.4 million, and a maintained dividend of 7.5p.

Biotechnology stocks continued to attract speculative interest, with **British Biotech** adding 112p to £23.50 for a three-day gain of 380p. **Celltech**, meanwhile, rose 20p to 657p, and **Cortecs** 12p to 282p.

Back on the profits warning front, it was the turn of NSM and Frederick Cooper to upset the City. NSM shares tumbled 22p to 55p after the mining company warned of a second-half loss because of freak weather conditions, delayed disposals and a problem contract, though the group still expects to be profitable for the year. **Frederick Cooper**, the specialist engineer, saw shares slide 6p to 48p after warning that operating profits for the six months to January will be sharply lower than the previous year.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** International bond markets were the driving force behind gilts in a volatile session, bouncing off intra-day lows to finish moderately weaker after falling sharply in afternoon trading on the back of plunging US Treasuries.

The March long gilt contract ended £1 7/32 lower at £110 25/32 after touching an intra-day low of £110 19/32 on volume of 96,000 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks, five-year issues slipped by about £¼, while losses stretched to £⅝ among longer-dated issues. Index-linked fell by about £¼.

☐ **NEW YORK:** A rally of shares in American Express pushed the Dow Jones industrial average higher while the broad market remained mostly softer at midday. The Dow was up 32.58 points at 5,249.71, largely because of the rise in American Express on talk that it may be a merger target.

Shares in Pearson and MAI, both part of the winning Channel 5 broadcasting consortium, added 8p to 646p and 3p to 345p respectively, after Richard Branson's Virgin Television failed in its High Court attempt to re-open the battle for the Channel 5 broadcasting licence.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Savoy A	£12.43	+113p	Speculative buying
Cairn Energy	179½p	+45p	Encouraging drilling report
P&O	542p	+53p	Speculative buying
British Biotech	£23.50	+455p	New cancer treatment hopes
Bluebird Toys	357p	+37p	Speculative interest
Cantab Pharmaceut.	528p	+143p	Demand for biotech issues
Holliday Chemicals	115p	-49p	Profits warning
Sainsbury	391p	-28p	Profits warning, downgrades
Farnell Electronics	612p	-67p	Unveils £1 85 billion US acquisition

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	
Dow Jones	5249.71 (+32.89)
S&P Composite	619.06 (+2.03)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20663.84 (+249.15)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	11111.87 (+8.79)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	506.46 (-1.55)
Sydney:	
AO	Closed
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2432.93 (-10.79)
Singapore:	
Straits	2437.34 (+4.34)
Brussels:	
General	8767.65 (-95.81)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1966.73 (+16.54)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	718.10 (-2.60)
London:	
FT 30	2766.3 (-0.7)
FT 100	3734.7 (+0.5)
FT-SE Mid 250	4085.6 (-1.1)
FT-SE-A 350	1854.6 (+0.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1536.40 (-7.55)
FT A All-Share	1828.89 (-0.22)
FT Non Financials	1923.00 (-0.14)
FT Fixed Interest	114.57 (-0.34)
FT Govt Secs	95.62 (-0.37
Bargains	33329
SEAQ Volume	740.4m
USM (Datastrm)	201.61 (-0.79)
US$	1.5028 (-0.0120)
German Mark	2.2414 (-0.0045)
Exchange Index	83.1 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1876
£:SDR	1.0396
RPI	150.7 Dec (3.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.6 Dec (3.0%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Ballynatray Hldgs	6	...
Century Inns	118	...
Dmatek	76	+ 2
Jupiter Split Cap	85½	...
Jupiter Split Inc	98½	...
Jupiter Split Uts	#59	...
Nthn Petlm Wts	8	...
Revelation Plcc	105	...
SkyePharma B Wts	7½	+ 1
Viewinn	175	+ 10

RIGHTS ISSUES

Berkeley Gp n/p (435)	54	+ 2
Eleco Holdings n/p (28)	½	...
Persona n/p (225)	43	+ 11
Seafield Res n/p (65)	24	...
Western Sel n/p (14)	½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Soundtracs	41p (+10p)
LBMS	543p (+32p)
Titon	120p (+10p)
British Borneo	410p (+32p)
Cluff Resources	137p (+9p)
Pilco	200p (+13p)
Sothebys	945p (+60p)
Unisel	256p (+18p)
Eve Group	220p (+10p)
Cortecs	282p (+12p)
Eng China Clay	325p (+11p)
Misys	600p (+20p)
Celltech	657p (+20p)
Yorks Chem	266p (+8p)
HP Bulmer	524p (+13p)
FALLS:	
NSM	55p (-22p)
Pacer Systems	154p (-11p)
J Sainsbury	389p (-21½p)
Meei	349p (-14p)
Amersham	834p (-28p)
Watson & Philip	547p (-18p)
Cable Wireless	434p (-9p)
Unitech	488p (-10p)
RJB	525p (-10p)
Land Sec	633p (-8p)
BBA	295p (-9p)
Delta	392p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

P&O makes waves

SUDDEN interest in P&O shares looks a little cynical and coincides neatly with the end of the bid battle for Forte. Speculative funds have already cashed in their gains and are looking for the next victim with undervalued assets. The question is whether P&O fits the bill and what price it might fetch.

P&O has never enjoyed an entirely happy relationship with the analytical community. The company is earning a return on capital of less than 10 per cent, in spite of continuing heavy investment. Most of the money is being ploughed into cruise ships, with some £500 million of vessels on order. P&O has other activities that are less successful: ferries are under pressure from the Channel tunnel and construction is difficult. The group has more than £800 million invested in containers and bulk shipping, but these assets earned a return of only 7 per cent in 1994 in spite of growth in world trade and hardening rates. P&O might do better banking its cash.

P&O slots into the transport sector, but the company is in reality a conglomerate, with assets in transport, real estate and construction. Break-up values for the group of about £7 per share are being touted with Carnival, the American cruise company mentioned. However, such a scenario would envisage the bidder retaining £2 billion of assets from a £7 billion offer.

P&O's problem, like that of all conglomerates, is the justification of owning such disparate assets when its own shares are trading at a lower rating than that which might be achieved by constituent parts. With P&O shares yielding 7 per cent, the company could do worse than buying back its shares.

J Sainsbury

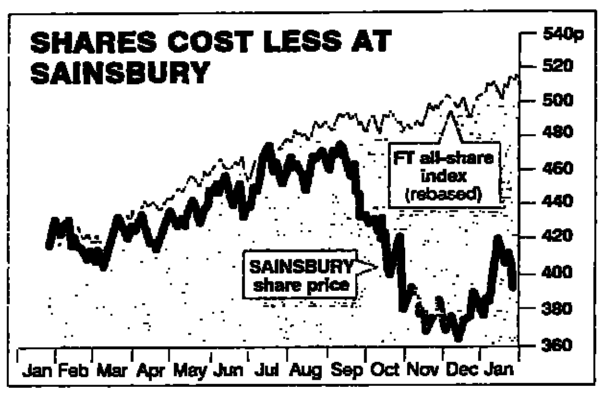
ONCE the leader of the pack of food retailers, Sainsbury is looking more like the runt of the litter. However, realism has finally dawned at J Sainsbury after a string of like-for-like sales advances that compared poorly with the competition and caused it to be dislodged from the number one slot by Tesco.

The battle to regain lost ground has begun. The appointment of a new marketing director and a January promotion started the ball rolling, and the planned top management changes should help to build momentum. News that short-term profits will be sacrificed to secure long-term gains should give the recovery extra impetus.

Hiring the equivalent of 2,500 new full-time staff should reap benefits, but will also add about 0.2 per cent to the payroll bill going forward. Costs in the second half will rise £10 million, while a boost to advertising spending will increase overheads by a further £10 million. Add to that keener pricing in the stores to lift sales and Sainsbury's margins are on a downward path.

However, in spite of yesterday's profit downgrade and share-price decline, the shares remain on a premium to the sector. Sainsbury has a fair distance to travel and will have to spend more to regain lost ground in a market where brand loyalty is dwindling. However, the company has little choice but to invest and the shares should benefit over the long term.

SHARES COST LESS AT SAINSBURY



British-Borneo

EXPLORATION in the Gulf of Mexico has attracted huge investment from the leading oil companies, but the expense of deepwater production has so far kept independents on the sidelines.

British-Borneo Petroleum Syndicate's plans have therefore excited interest among speculators.

The attraction for investors is two fold: the development of the Gulf of Mexico's Morpeth field and British Borneo's rights over certain new deep-water drilling technology.

Successful development of Morpeth, which has estimated reserves of 50 million barrels would be an important addition to the company.

Moreover, the company also has control over technology — the SeaStar floating production system, developed by Atlantia. SeaStar suits fields such as Morpeth, which are too small for the oil majors to develop but which could, if reserve estimates are right, prove to be very profitable.

Based on its current reserves, British-Borneo's share price looks high. But if Alan Gaynor, the chief executive, is right, and other oil majors let British-Borneo exploit their promising small fields in the region — rather than give their exploration licences back to the US government — the experience gained with Morpeth could give the company a head start in an important region.

This would mean a bright future for the company and for its shares.

Colorvision

THE Office of Fair Trading produced a litany of offences under consumer protection legislation as justification to revoke Colorvision's consumer credit licence.

In response, Colorvision complains that most of the offences are old and relate to advertising.

The retailer is appealing and reckons it is being singled out for punishment in spite of being no worse than its competitors.

Being no worse is a rather poor excuse for findings of malpractice, but consumers might have some sympathy for Colorvision as an easy target.

Nevertheless, Colorvision is in the dock with the threat of losing 45 per cent of its sales.

For shareholders who have seen profits slide from £3 million in 1990 to £800,000 last year, the outlook looks even more bleak. A management change would be an obvious solution: Colorvision has enough cash in the bank to attract a bid, but the directors have two thirds of the shares and, if they wish to fight on, there seems little hope for investors.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA [illegible]

ROBUSTA COFFEE [illegible]

WHITE SUGAR [illegible]

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION [illegible]

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB) [illegible]

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery) [illegible]

IPE FUTURES [illegible]

BRENT [illegible]

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT [illegible]

BARLEY [illegible]

POTATO [illegible]

RUBBER [illegible]

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE [illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
FT-SE 250	[illegible]				[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Month Sterling	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three Mth Eurodollar	[illegible]				[illegible]	
Three Mth Euro DM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Long Gilt	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Japanese Govmt Bond	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
German Gov Bd Bund	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three month ECU	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro Swiss Franc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Italian Govmt Bond	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: [illegible]

Discount Market Loans: [illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Local Authority Deps	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Building Society CDs	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: [illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

[illegible]

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

[illegible]

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3524-1.3535
Austria	10.46-10.49
Belgium (Com)	30.67-30.86
Canada	1.3913-1.3918
Denmark	5.7645-5.7680
France	5.1195-5.1245
Germany	1.4915-1.4931
Hong Kong	7.7314-7.7321
Ireland	1.5583-1.5607
Italy	1605.00-1607.00
Japan	106.74-106.79
Malaysia	2.5540-2.5550
Netherlands	[illegible]
Norway	[illegible]
Portugal	155.17-155.27
Singapore	1.4165-1.4175
Spain	[illegible]
Sweden	[illegible]
Switzerland	1.2045-1.2050

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso	[illegible]
Australia dollar	2.0318-2.0345
Bahrain dinar	[illegible]
Brazil real	[illegible]
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	[illegible]
Finland markka	[illegible]
Greece drachma	[illegible]
Hong Kong dollar	[illegible]
India rupee	[illegible]
Indonesia rupiah	[illegible]
Kuwait dinar KD	[illegible]
Malaysia ringgit	[illegible]
New Zealand dollar	[illegible]
Pakistan rupee	51.31 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	[illegible]
Singapore dollar	[illegible]
S Africa rand (com)	[illegible]
U A E dirham	[illegible]

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FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	477	Land Secs	1,200
ASDA Gp	10,000	Legal & Gn	456
Abbey Ntl	4,700	Lloyds TSB	16,000
Allied Dom	1,700	Marks Spr	5,000
[illegible]	[illegible]	NatWst Bk	2,200
Argyll Gp	3,000	Nat Grid	12,000
AB Foods	705	Nat Power	1,200
BAA	1,900	P & O	6,500
BAT Inds	2,300	Pearson	1,400
BOC	[illegible]	Pilkington	2,100
BP	8,500	Powergen	1,100
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

WALL STREET

	Jan 26 midday	Jan 25 close
AMP Inc	[illegible]	[illegible]
AMR Corp	[illegible]	[illegible]
AT & T	[illegible]	[illegible]
Abbott Labs	[illegible]	[illegible]
Advanced Micro	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aetna Life	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

PAIN IN GAIN 37

Delays cause more Tessa troubles

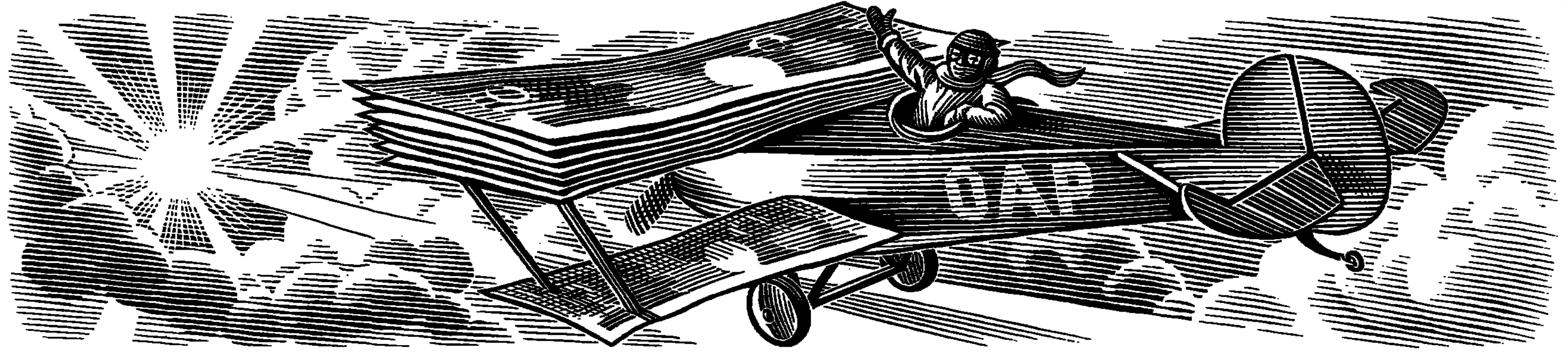
WEEKEND MONEY

A-Z OF FINANCE

Your guide through the money maze

Compulsory contributions to a new scheme may be needed to resolve crisis

BILL SANDERSON



Workers may have to top up pensions

Action is needed soon to erase the threat of old-age poverty. Sara McConnell reports

Working people may be compelled to make contributions to pension schemes to top up basic state retirement provision, if the Government accepts the advice of an independent inquiry into retirement income published this week.

The Retirement Income Enquiry (RIE) claims compulsory contributions to top up pension schemes by the better off are the only way the country can ensure its citizens have enough to live on in retirement. It criticises the existing pensions regime as "unsatisfactory for many people" and gives warning that some of society's more vulnerable people find themselves facing poverty in old age.

Its findings reflect growing Government fears that an aging population, combined with a shrinking workforce, will put an unbearable strain on the present state pension by the early decades of the next century.

So how might the system work? What will be different? Here are answers to some of the questions you may be asking.

Q **I work full-time and pay National Insurance contributions, so am I contributing to my pension?**

A In theory, yes. Part of your NI contribution goes into the National Insurance fund, which pays state pensions. There are two sorts of state pension, basic and earnings-related. The maximum basic state pension for a single person this year is £58.85 and for a couple £94.10, but you only get this if you have paid full National Insurance contributions throughout your working life. You are also paying towards the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps), unless you or your company have opted out.

Q **So why am I contributing "in theory?"**

A National Insurance fund is run on a pay-as-you-go basis. This means the contributions you pay in immediately go out to pay pensions to today's retired people, instead of being invested. This is fine when there are substantially more contributors than pensioners, but now there are more older people living longer and draining the fund faster than workers can make it up again. By the time today's workers, particularly those in their 30s and 40s, reach pension age, it is unlikely the fund will be able to afford more than a nominal state pension, despite recent moves to raise women's retirement age to 65.

Pensioners may soon get the answers they want to hear

Q **What does the Retirement Income Enquiry suggest as an alternative?**

A It wants to keep the basic state pension but abolish Serps, which would be expected to cost £12 billion a year by 2030. The basic state pension, paid from the National Insurance fund, will be one element of a new "assured pension", be made up of state pension, savings and a top-up from the state if necessary to what the Government considers an adequate income.

This basic pension will be topped up with compulsory contributions to an occupational scheme, a personal pension or a new national pension scheme, on top of state contributions. Employers and employees would both have to contribute at least a set minimum, as would the self-employed. It is not yet clear who would run a national scheme, but it could be the insurance companies operating under contract from a specially created governing body.

Q **But it is insurance companies who sold all those people the wrong pensions!**

A Even insurance companies admit they have a credibility problem and the RIE expresses concern about pension mis-selling. More than two years after hundreds of thousands of people were found to have been wrongly advised to transfer from company schemes to personal pensions, only a handful have been compensated.

The reputation of insurance companies generally is likely to be one of the biggest sticking points if one or more of them secures a contract with the Government to operate the national scheme.

Q **Are company schemes any better? What if my employer steals my pension money?**

A The Government was forced to act to tighten up occupational pension regulation after hundreds of millions of pounds disappeared from the coffers of Maxwell pensioners.

The Pensions Act 1995 provides for a compensation fund, a pensions regulator and a certain proportion of member trustees to try to prevent abuse. But none of these will stop an employer bent on fraud.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Mis-selling bill could top expected £4 billion

Pearl attacks rivals' findings

IN the latest development in the personal pension controversy, Pearl Assurance this week fought back against claims that its bill for compensating for mis-selling was higher than the industry average.

The company's claim could mean that the £4 billion total previously given as the life insurance industry's total liability for the personal pension scandal could be an underestimate.

Pearl refused to comment on the £240m estimate for its own compensation, and claimed it was too early to tell what the eventual bill would be.

Pearl said that competitors who were claiming to have only a handful of compensation cases had failed fully to realise their problems. The company claimed that its review was at a more advanced stage than those of its competitors. To date, Pearl has calculated that around 120,000 of its 300,000 personal pension sales may need to be compensated.

Pearl added that it had indicated that it had a problem with mis-selling of personal pensions at the end of 1993. This was a full year before the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog, ordered the industry to undertake a full review personal pensions.

Insurance companies had encouraged nurses, miners, police officers and other public sector employees to opt out from their pension schemes, or transfer deferred benefits. Other employees had been urged not to join company schemes.

Those who have been misadvised will eventually be compensated for losses.

Last week, a survey of some of the biggest pension providers pinpointed Pearl as having one of the biggest problems with mis-selling. Max Mauchline, Pearl customer benefit review manager, disputed its findings, saying: "Our discussions with others carrying out the review would indicate that we have the same proportion of opt-outs as others," adding that transfers are less consistent.

Pearl has so far paid compensation of £1m on 200 cases, from a total of 40,000 opt-outs and 86,000 transfers.

The Personal Investment Authority, the regulatory body, said it did not rule out disciplining companies where there was clear evidence of systematic mis-selling.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Stakeholders v the barons

PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Remember last summer's stormy British Gas meeting? Private investors lambasted those new pay packages on which the board wasted so much time. Faceless pension fund managers, insurance companies and trusts backed the board. Perhaps they reflected the true feelings of the silent majority of small investors, as well as beneficiaries of the funds they manage. Perhaps not. There is no way of knowing.

Institutional investors' power to outdo individuals was well illustrated in the bizarre Forte affair. Unless quick money is to be had, however, the City barons who wield such power are not always so keen to exercise it. Contrary to umpteen guidelines, most did not bother to register a vote when asked by British Aerospace to approve the sale of Rover to Germany's BMW. The minority still outvoted private investors.

This hegemony might soon change. A fully funded compulsory National Pension Scheme to replace Serps, recommended by Sir John Anson's Retirement Income Inquiry, makes enough sense to see the light of day in the next five years. Unless the vast majority opted for private schemes instead, it would rapidly outgrow any other fund in the country. Quite rightly, the Anson report presumes that "the fund would be invested in a well-balanced portfolio of investments, like any other defined contribution fund". That would make it the biggest owner of domestic shares.

In the long run, that must be good for share prices. It will also change the role of shareholders. Thankfully, few now want Whitehall to use such shares to control firms, like some new version of the National Enterprise Board. But the fund is bound to be politicised. The Anson report says it should be run not by government but by "a governing body acting in the interest of beneficiaries". That body would be appointed by ministers, however, so its conduct would be as open to political debate as independently regulated utilities.

The governors could delegate fund management to the usual City barons, but that would not really make much difference. If people are obliged by law to contribute, they are entitled to know how their money and their votes are used. Fund and holdings would have to be segregated, and votes made public.

Managers would inevitably be held accountable for more than the overall performance of the funds, via the governing body and ultimately via Parliament. They could not really hide behind the Scargill judgment, which obliges conventional trustees to ignore wishes of members that might conflict with maximising proceeds. Alternative private funds, except for voluntary employers' schemes, should also expect to be more accountable to members.

The first problem would be choosing politically correct equity investments. But that is also most easily solved: by avoiding choice. The national fund would have to mirror the all-share index, not necessarily a bad thing. Dragooned contributors wanting a specific "ethical" or "green" policy could opt for a dedicated private fund.

Passive management might also help in the fraught area of takeover bids. Some index funds do nothing before a bidder wins control. This builds in a bias against hostile takeover bids, but that would doubtless be popular.

Even under such a regime, there is no escaping issues of corporate governance and company conduct: from share options to control of the chief executive, from dividend policy to major deals, from environmental audits to dirty deeds in poor countries. The national fund, or non-employer equivalents, would have to vote if topics come up.

Canny pressure groups will make sure votes are called, lobby funds and badger managers or governing bodies to answer for their actions. That process will wash over into pressure on the bloc-wielding barons to become more open and accountable too. Private shareholders would gain no power individually, but could wield far more collectively, if pressure groups lobbying the faceless ones reflect their views. If not, they had better start their own.

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Clare Stewart on our national obsession, antiques, from fine art to Dinky Toys

Bulls roam the auction houses

INTEREST in antiques is growing, fuelled perhaps by the Jane Austen costume dramas that fill our TV screens. Last week 15,000 collectors packed the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre for the Art and Antiques Fair, mounted by Lapada, the association of art and antique dealers. Furniture sold strongly, with a pair of 19th-century cabinets making £42,000.

On show to tempt buyers at the Birmingham fair were £20 million worth of antiques, ranging from £5 to £100,000. The rush at the fair reflects activity nationwide as collectors and bargain-hunters search local shops and village hall sales in their quest for something going for a song.

Buying antiques is a national passion that embraces an enormous diversity of taste and budget, whether you are buying for investment, are drawn by the visual appeal of certain items, or just enjoy collecting.

The following of television series such as *Antiques Roadshow* is indicative of the ever-growing interest. Now in its eighteenth year, the programme attracts about 12 million viewers every week, and at each location between 3,000 and 5,000 people turn up clutching their treasures, frequently queuing from dawn in order to be seen by the experts.

This year promises to be busy for dealers and auction houses, with prices expected to continue their post-recession recovery. The fine art and antiques market was hit hard by the recession as serious buyers and sellers stayed away and auctioneers and dealers had to tighten their belts.

International sales at Christie's last year totalled £921 million, up 14 per cent on the previous year. Highlights included top prices being set in categories ranging from Old Masters and Impressionist paintings to teddy bears, as well as ballet slippers belonging to the late Rudolf Nureyev.

Record prices in the saleroom do not necessarily equate to record investment returns in the future. It is also very difficult to make a comparison with other forms of investment in deciding whether your money is better in unit trusts or a Clarice Cliff tea service. Industry statistics take into account changes in auction house prices, but cannot include data from the many antique dealers and shops around the country.

Art Market Research compiles an art index, the antique market equivalent of the FT-SE 100, based on saleroom prices. This shows that a nominal £1,000 invested in 1975 would have provided a somewhat variable return, dipping in value initially and showing only very modest returns until the mid-1980s.

The years 1989 and 1990 boomed and your £1,000 would have grown in value to nearly £12,500, before crashing to £6,882 in 1991. Last year the value was just over £6,000.

Malcolm Hord, chief executive of the Lapada trade association, which has 740 members, says serious investors should make certain basic judgements before buying. "Look for quality, which always holds its value and increases," he says. "Provenance — that is, the history of the piece and who owned it previously, and the rarity of the piece — is also important."

Although it is near impossible to predict how prices will move, Mr Hord believes that pieces with practical use, such as furniture, will continue to fetch good prices. He cites the popularity of 18th-century furniture, with dining sets always in demand. "With things that are purely decorative it is more difficult to guarantee that they will hold their value, given changes in taste," he said.

According to Christie's Art Market Research Index, prices in eighteenth-century furniture held steady throughout the recession and last year showed a marked increase. By comparison, Index figures for Chinese ceramics show that they have followed the general market trend, peaking in 1990 with less certain recovery subsequently.

Generally, "prices are now firming up compared to the last three years, which have been difficult", according to Mr Hord. "There are indications that we are moving from a bear to a bull market," he says.

For many people the route into collecting is through the more everyday items that do not always require a large cheque book.

One ever-expanding market is what is loosely termed 20th-century collectables, which might be phone cards, Swatch watches or Disney souvenirs. The sale of cinema and pop memorabilia is also setting new records, though more cautious investors might doubt their long-term investment value. Toys from teddy bears to train sets continue to be eagerly sought after. The sound of jaws dropping could be heard at *Phillips, the London auctioneers,* last year as Sylvia Anderson, co-creator with her husband, Gerry, of the *Thunderbirds* puppets, sold her Lady Penelope puppet for £30,000.

Not all toys fetch such prices. "A large part of our business is selling Dinky Toys to collectors," says Hugo Marsh, head of toys at Christie's. "In good condition and with their boxes these might sell from around £25-£30 or could be worth over £1,000." Last year a pre-war Dinky Toy Bentalls delivery van made £12,650.

Highlights among Christie's toy sales in 1996 include a large collection of very desirable Märklin model trains in May, a big Dinky Toy sale in April, and Hornby 0 coming down the line in October. Among more modern toys, Mr Marsh rates as highly collectable those linked to film and television productions, from the earliest *Batman* to *Star Wars*. Early Barbie dolls are also in demand, fetching up to £1,000 each.

Many people, having exhausted local shops and fairs, are rather timorous about venturing into an auction room. "People get very nervous that they are going to end up with a stuffed elephant for £2,000 if they bat an eyelid," says John Kirkland, associate director of Hamptons, the Surrey auctioneers. "That's absolute rubbish — you need to make a very definite eye contact with the auctioneer before you are included in the bidding."

Furthermore, to avoid any confusion, salerooms issue bidders with an identifying number that can be raised to attract the auctioneer's attention.

The buyer's premium will vary, but an average is about 15 per cent, inclusive of VAT. Payment is usually in cash, direct debit or banker's draft. Unless agreed in advance, payment by cheque is not advised, as your stuffed elephant or Chippendale chairs will not be handed over until the cheque has cleared. You might also have to pay storage charges while waiting.

If you are selling, it is advisable to get several valuations. Most auction houses can offer free verbal valuations if they have the necessary specialist in-house. For a fee, they will come to your house.

When buying from dealers, it is important to get a detailed receipt and history. As an added safeguard, dealers belonging to trade associations such as Lapada or the British Antique Dealers Association (Bada) will be bound by a code of practice. Any complaints about a purchase can be referred to the relevant association.

CHRIS HARRIS

The Lady Penelope puppet from television's *Thunderbirds* fetched £30,000 for her co-creator last year

GUIDELINES

THE *Antiques Trade Gazette*, published weekly, provides a comprehensive guide to the salerooms, regional fairs and shows. Annual subscription £52 (0171 930 4957).

Guides: Regularly updated guides such as Miller's, also the Lyle guide, provide details on pricing and identification.

LAPADA 0171 823 3511.
BADA 0171 589 4128.

Sales and valuations details:
Christie's (0171 581 7611);
Sotheby's (0171 493 8080);
Phillips (0171 629 6602);
Bonhams (0171 393 3900);
Hamptons (01483 423567).

A QUESTION OF MONEY

Chance for TSB customers to share in merger

MORE than one million Trustee Savings Bank shareholders with a stake in the original bank have been given the opportunity to take part in a new share dividend scheme, in the wake of its £13.6 billion merger with Lloyds Bank.

While existing Lloyds Bank shares have been cancelled, TSB share certificates remain valid and TSB shareholders have already received a special cash dividend of 68.3p per share.

For the first time, TSB customers will be able to take part in a share dividend scheme that has always been available to shareholders in Lloyds Bank. Below we answer some of the relevant questions.

Q What is the share dividend scheme?

A The opportunity to receive new ordinary shares in Lloyds TSB Group instead of cash dividends. The offer is available to all United Kingdom shareholders and participants in staff profit-sharing schemes whose shares are held in trust.

Q How long do I have to decide?

A The first cut-off date for shareholders who want to take shares instead of cash dividends is April 2, but shareholders can change their mind at any time. Applications must be made at least 28 days before the dividend date to be eligible for that dividend. The scheme will start with the final dividend for 1995, which will be paid on May 1, 1996. Anyone who buys extra shares after they have completed the form will receive shares instead of cash dividends on their entire holding.

Q What are the benefits of taking new shares in the company?

A There are two main benefits for shareholders who opt for new shares over a cash dividend. Under the new scheme, shareholders will be able to increase their holding in the company without incurring dealing costs. At the same time, some shareholders will be able to take advantage of certain tax benefits. If you pay basic or lower-rate income tax, you should have no more tax to pay if you take shares.

If you receive a cash dividend and your income tax liability is less than the credit attached to the dividend, you are entitled to claim back the overpaid tax. However, you will not be able to enjoy these benefits if you take new shares.

Anyone who makes covenanted donations to charity or other payments net of basic rate income tax, who relies on cash dividends to cover such charges for taxation purposes, should take into consideration that they can only set a *cash dividend against* charges and not the cash equivalent.

Justin Urquhart Stewart, a business planning director at Barclays Stockbrokers, says: "Look to the taxman. If you are in a Pep, take the cash dividend and claim the tax back. If you are outside a Pep, take the stock option.

"These are good quality shares with a good yield," he said. "It's a nice quiet way of building up your portfolio, without paying commission charges."

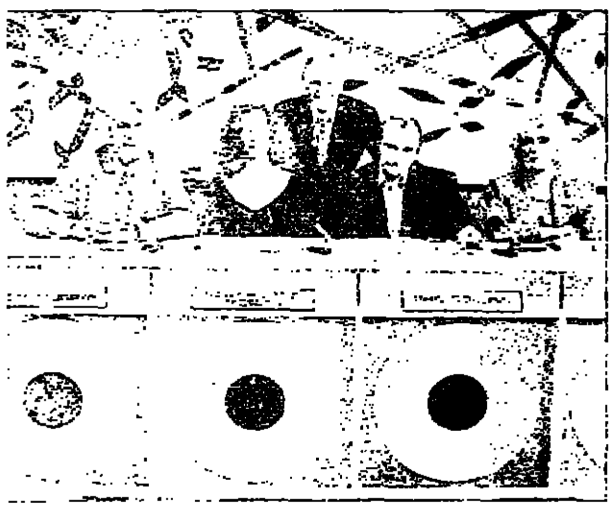
Q How many shares will I receive for each dividend?

A It will depend on the value of the cash dividend, the number of shares already registered in your name, and the stock market share price. Fractions of shares will not be issued, and any cash balance will be carried forward without interest and included in the calculation for the next dividend payout.

If your cash dividend entitlement together with any cash residue brought forward is not enough to acquire at least one new share, the cash residue will be carried forward to the next dividend.

MORAG PRESTON

Temptation of a market-linked guaranteed bond


The jury's still out on Hamilton Life's six-year bond

These days, when building society deposit accounts are paying paltry interest, an unknown life assurance company is tempting savers with a more generous-than-usual guaranteed-growth bond. Give a £5,000 minimum to Hamilton Life and you are guaranteed 50 per cent capital growth over six years, free of basic-rate tax. There are further possible returns if the FT-SE 100 index performs well.

If you need guaranteed regular income rather than growth, monthly income can be paid at 6.4 per cent a year or annual income at 6.7 per cent. If you take the income route, you will simply get back your initial investment at the end of six years, plus any stock market growth.

"This has come at a good time with interest rates dropping and is giving a substantial guarantee," says Amanda Davidson of Holden Meehan, the independent financial adviser. "The only minus is who on earth is Hamilton Life? A guarantee is only as good as the company behind it." Hamilton Life is part of the American HFC Bank, the bank behind the GM credit card, among others, and which says it has assets of more than $35 billion. For the past 12 years, Hamilton Life has concentrated on credit protection insurance. This is the first bond it has issued. Andrew Ferguson, of Hamilton Life, said: "We are aware that people have not heard of us. But we have distributed the product through independent financial advisers, so it doesn't matter that our name is unknown. Through this bond we have opened up a new means of distribution for the company, and there will be further issues of the bond and other new products to come." The adviser who sent the mailshot was Johnson Fry, which says it investigated Hamilton Life fully. You don't get a guarantee for nothing.

HIT OR MISS

For a start you may not earn the full value of any market rises. Hamilton Life says it will give 50 per cent of the actual growth in the FT-SE 100 index, calculated as a percentage of your earnings. Also bonds do not pay the underlying shares' dividends. The plans are inflexible, so if you need your capital or the market falls and you could be earning more elsewhere, you can only surrender your policy at a harsh penalty. And the return from bonds at the end of their term is paid after deduction of basic-rate income tax, which cannot be reclaimed by non-taxpayers while higher-rate taxpayers face an extra tax charge.

If you want the comfort of a guaranteed return of your capital, ask an independent adviser for advice. Marks out of ten for the Hamilton Life guaranteed growth bond? "If it was another, well-known company, I would give it a high mark," said Amanda Davidson, "but since I don't know this lot, six out of ten."

SARAH JONES

Bonds tax threat.................35

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COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Patience is the principal skill required to play the building society flotation lottery which is a game of delayed gratification. Having spotted a society itching to shed its mutual status, you must be prepared to wait for your cash or free shares. This period of anticipation will not necessarily be a relaxing experience.

For 18 months or more, your cash will sit in the society, anticipating stock market debut day. You know that withdrawing any cash could put your payout at risk. Under the terms of both the Halifax and Woolwich conversion schemes, the size of the free share entitlement will be based on the lowest balance in the account between the first qualifying date, and a second later date.

In a fair-minded decision that shows the society's determination to retain the long-term goodwill of its customers, the Halifax has said that it will reveal this second date some time in advance to allow members to replenish their balances. The Woolwich, however, reserves the right to announce the second qualifying day *retrospectively*. As several readers have remarked, this word has seldom sounded so menacing. The Woolwich, once renowned for being Equitable, both in name and deed, should be careful about its reputation.

Knowing that their members are held captive, societies can afford to be a lot less competitive about savings rates, as National & Provincial savers can attest. Next week, the Woolwich lowers its rates by an average of 0.4 per cent. But its savers will not be as offended as those of the Alliance & Leicester whose flotation announcement is imminent.

This week the society launched a Prime 90 Deposit Account. Those who invest will not be able to share in the society's flotation largesse. But, by way of compensation, they will be earning far more generous rates than the hapless holders of A&L share accounts who are paying for their flotation expectations in lower returns. For example, the new and shiny Prime 90 Deposit pays 6.60 per cent on amounts between £10,000 and £24,999. This compares with 4.05 per cent on the Bonus 90, a share account. The differences are less marked, but significant for smaller amounts.

Without putting in jeopardy their share entitlement, there is little that Bonus 90 savers and others who have seen their returns become uncompetitive, can do to complain about such anomalies. Except, perhaps, to regard the whole thing as a nothing more than a game and take their money elsewehere, as soon as they have picked up the flotation prize.

Why so mean?

THE 1995 Budget contained two concessions for savers, a cut to 20 per cent in the tax on savings and a new lower age limit of 60 for National Savings Pensioners Bond.

At the time, the various National Savings schemes with their competitive returns were being promoted as never before. Three months later, things look rather different. But then consistency has never been the hallmark of National Savings' policy.

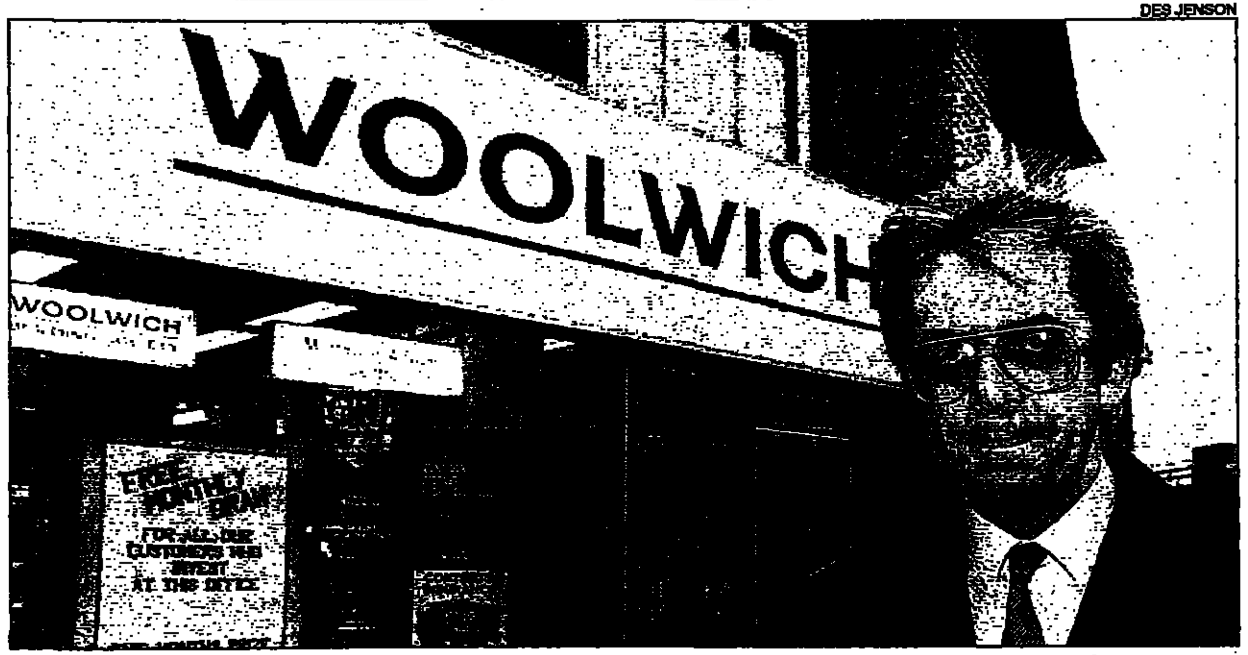
Rates on the whole National Savings range have been cut. Although elderly savers who are currently switching from Income Bonds into Pensioners Bonds will still be able to earn the old rate of 7.5 per cent, others will earn the new rate of 7 per cent. National Savings obviously hopes that the new lower tax will make the return look attractive, despite the cut.

Following the decrease, Pensioner Bonds are still a reasonable investment, but those about to celebrate their 60th birthday will not be much impressed with the Chancellor's rather mean present.

What price loyalty to societies?

Anne Ashworth on the dilemma of pleasing both City and savers

DES JENSON



Paul Boddham-Whetham, 27 years a Woolwich saver, failed what he believes to be an unfair qualification test

As the Alliance & Leicester Building Society prepares to reveal the details of its £3 billion stock market flotation, attention has focused on its plan to produce a customer loyalty scheme in March. These evermore popular packages reward customers with cheaper mortgages and improved savers' rates. Following the examples of the Yorkshire and the Bradford & Bingley, the Britannia and the Nationwide will also launch loyalty schemes.

The Alliance & Leicester's decision has caused comment in the industry because such schemes are associated with societies determined to retain their mutual status.

Yesterday, senior figures questioned how the Alliance & Leicester could make itself attractive to City investors and still return profits to customers.

This is the basis of both the Bradford & Bingley loyalty scheme, revealed this week, and the Yorkshire scheme, which was announced in October 1995.

One observer commented: "The Bradford & Bingley is giving back £50 million of its profits. What's the City going to think about the Alliance & Leicester showing a fall in its 1996 profits because it has given back a third to its members?"

If the Alliance & Leicester decides, as predicted by some, to make December 31, 1995, the cut-off date for its flotation, this would also be the source of controversy. Only those who were qualifying members of the society at that date and remained so until flotation would benefit from the free share distribution. Qualifying members are borrowers, owing not less than £100 and holders of share accounts with balances of not less than £100.

The Woolwich's decision to fix December 31 as its cut-off date has caused a furore. The aggrieved savers include not only the 30,000 who opened accounts in early January before the announcement of the Woolwich flotation, but also thousands of long standing customers. It was possible to open certain Alliance & Leicester share accounts until January 16.

The Times last week revealed the growing sense of grievance among customers who had been with the Woolwich for decades but would not benefit from the share bonanza.

Their numbers included elderly people forced to close their accounts in early January because their convenient local branch had been shut down and current account holders who are not entitled to free shares, as they have deposit-type, not share accounts.

Although the Woolwich says that it can do nothing for these groups, the discontent remains.

Among those who have contacted Weekend Money this week are Paul Boddham-Whetham, a project director with a construction company and 27 years a Woolwich saver.

During 1995, the average balance on his Woolwich Prime Gold account (a share account) was £1,167, the average balance on his Cashbase Current account, £1,872. At the end of December, however, the Prime Gold balance fell to £14, as Mr Boddham-Whetham had transferred cash over to the Cashbase account.

Mr Boddham-Whetham, who lives in Berkhamsted, Berkshire, argues that qualification for the flotation benefits should be based on average balance over a 12-month period.

He commented: "Those carpetbaggers who rushed to invest in the last few weeks of 1995 are resting easy in the knowledge that their skilful gambler's timing may earn them a tidy profit in shares."

David Adams, a reader from Solihull, who has also been a Woolwich saver for more than 20 years, emptied his Prime Gold account at the very end of December, leaving just £14. Before the transfer, there was £730 in the account.

Mr Adams intends to form a protest committee to seek to overturn the Woolwich ruling.

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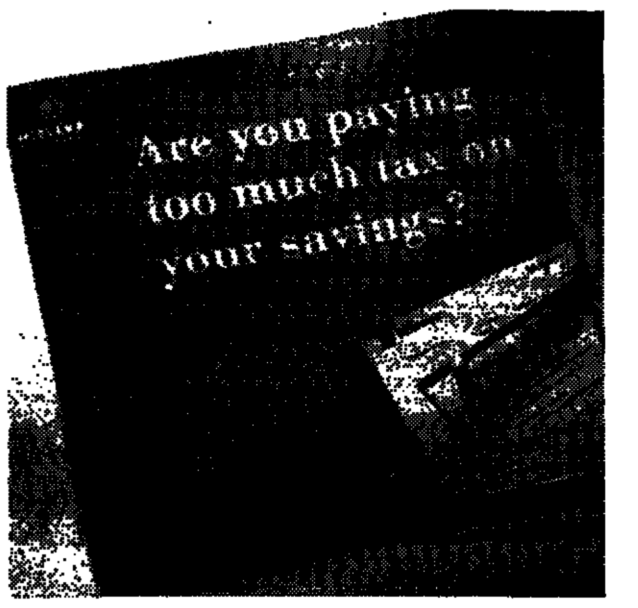

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OVER 50?

The wrong choice at the wrong time could reduce your retirement income by up to one third.

FT Quarterly Review of Personal Finance
27 - 28 January 1995

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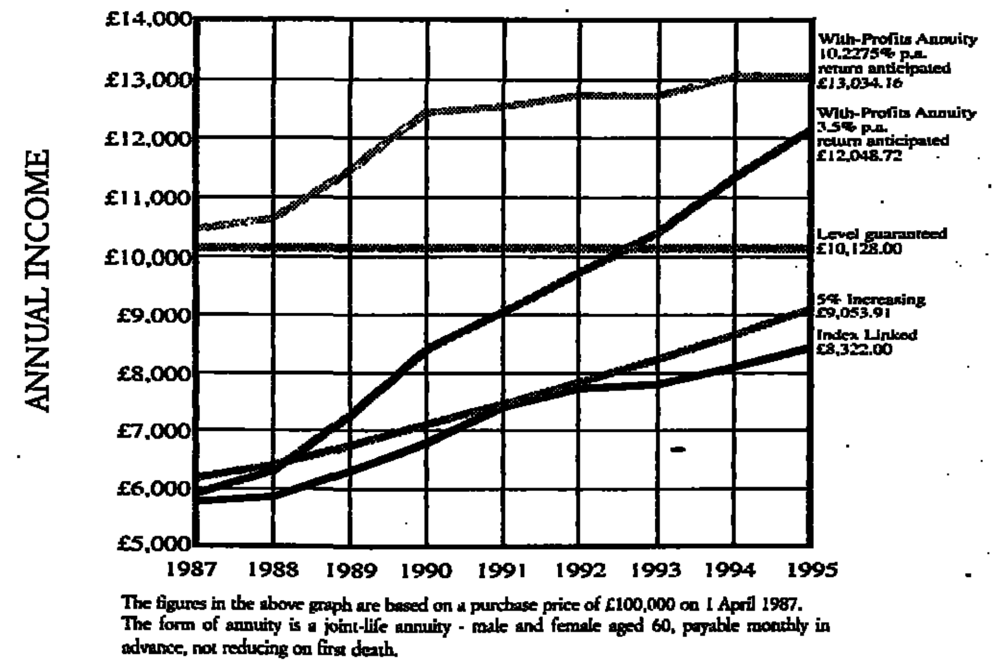

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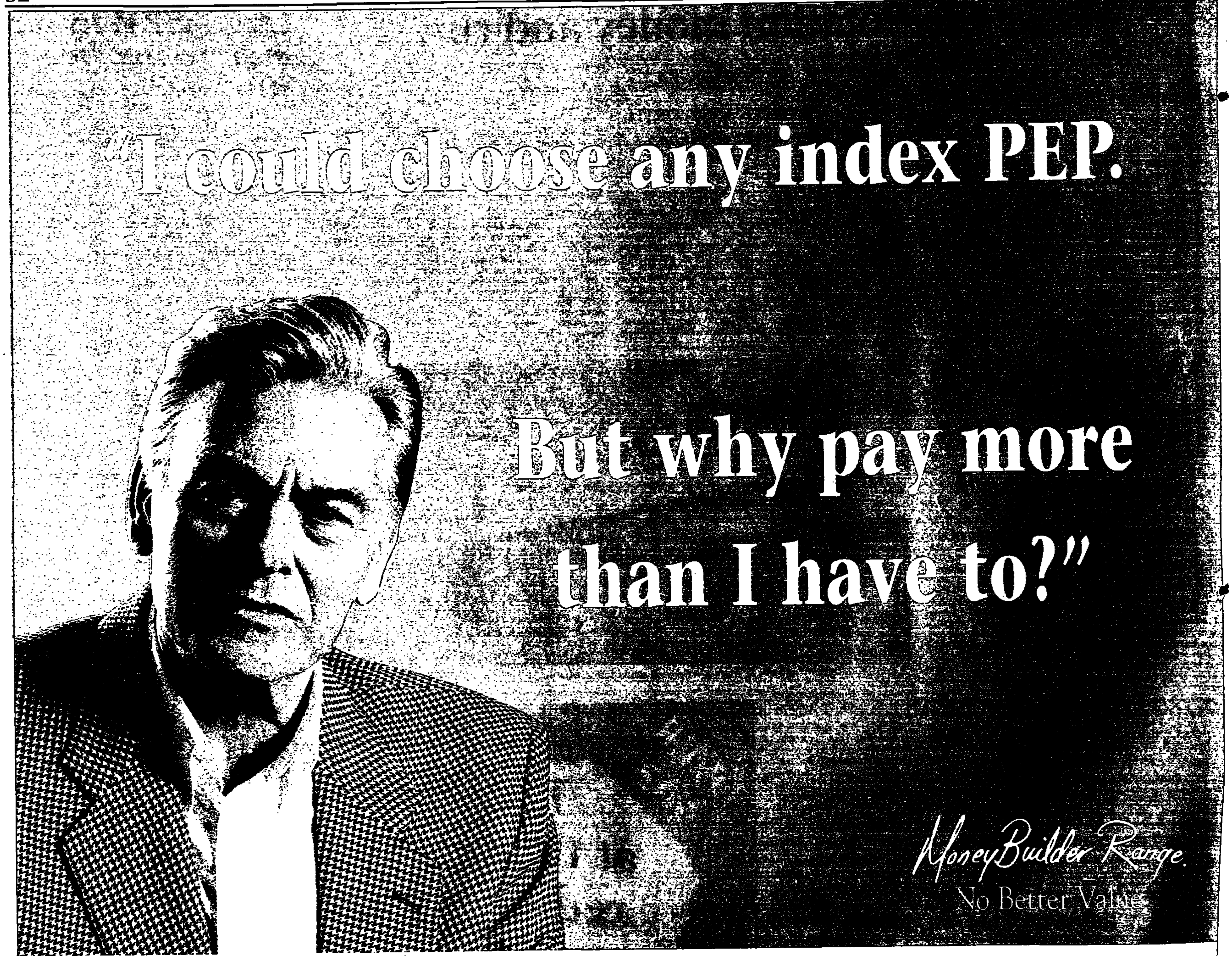

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Invest now for the future

Morag Preston

on the pension options of offer to the young

Pension planning is a vital first course for young people starting their career

The thought that, for every five years you delay starting a pension, the cost can increase by as much as 50 per cent, should convince anyone in their early twenties to act on Nike's advice and "Just do it". The prediction that half the people in this country will retire on less than 50 per cent of their salary is another statistic that financial adviser Fiona Price uses to encourage her younger clients to start thinking about their pension.

"Once they have at least three months' income tucked away in the building society, or more if they are self-employed, they should start looking at the very long term and pension planning," says Ms Price. "It costs so much to catch up later."

In an already crowded market, with several hundred pension providers, anyone in their twenties who has sufficient income should talk to a financial adviser before locking themselves into a complicated scheme. Financial advisers can weigh up the costs of pension plans, discuss the financial strengths of the provider, and the flexibilty of the pension. Most encourage younger savers to take advantage of company pension schemes, whereby employers contribute towards the pensions.

Craig Foreman, a senior manager at Touche Ross, says: "An employer's scheme has to be really awful for you to turn it down. It's something for nothing." However, he also points out that problems may occur should you want to change your job. "Only join in if you're going to be more than two years at your job." Ms Price, on the other hand, says: "Always go for it rather than not."

Not every company offers an in-house pension scheme, and they can vary enormously. Some employers set a date by which you must join, while others fix a minimum age limit as low as 25 or 30. In these cases, first-time earners are encouraged to make provisions for themselves. Amanda Davidson, a partner at Holden Meehan, says: "When picking a provider, look for a pension that can cope with any changes should you change your career, and one that won't clobber you with charges if you do."

The majority of Ms Davidson's younger clients contribute between £50 and £100 each month into a personal pension. She recommends NPI and Standard Life because "there is no penalty for retiring early, and it has good early transfer values". She also recommends Scottish Equitable because "they manage your money in a more adventurous way" and Friends Provident Stewardship Fund as a "green" option. Philippa Gee, at Gee & Company, says: "If there is no employer's scheme, you should start looking at contracting out of Serps straight away as long as your earnings are approaching at least £10,000."

John Eaton of Lupton Fawcett is sceptical of traditional pension plans. He says: "It's only a savings scheme with tax advantages. Your money is locked up until you're 50 and, at the far end of the day, you won't get the original capital back." Mr Eaton recommends a savings plan which includes Tessas, Peps and investment trusts, with easy access to capital or an investment trust pension savings plan. He says: "Their charging structures are more competitive and they have a better investment potential." In June last year, Foreign & Colonial introduced a flexible Low Start Option for anyone who wants to start their pension early but can contribute only £50 monthly.

WINNERS & LOSERS

Car buyer beware

MOTORISTS who buy a second-hand car unaware that it is still on a hire or lease agreement could end up having the vehicle seized and losing thousands of pounds and contesting the case in court (Marianne Curphey *writes*). A *Times* reader, Demetris Kourdoulos, ran into problems when he bought a Fiat Uno three years ago. Less than a year later, the man who had sold it to him died.

Three months after the seller's death, Mr Kourdoulos was contacted by Motability Finance Ltd, a London company with a contract motor fleet of 125,000 and which specialises in hiring cars to disabled people. It said it intended to repossess the car, the first Mr Kourdoulos knew of a lease agreement under which the user returns the vehicle to the hire company at the end of the term. The vehicle registration document contained the details of the hirer (the seller) but nothing on the true owners. A court case ruled in favour of the finance company.

Motability Finance say Mr Kourdoulos should have made a check on the car to ensure there were no payments outstanding. "The car should never have been sold to him, because the seller would not have legally owned it."

Phil Howells, a legal expert with the Consumers' Association, said Mr Kourdoulos' only recourse would be to sue the estate of the seller.

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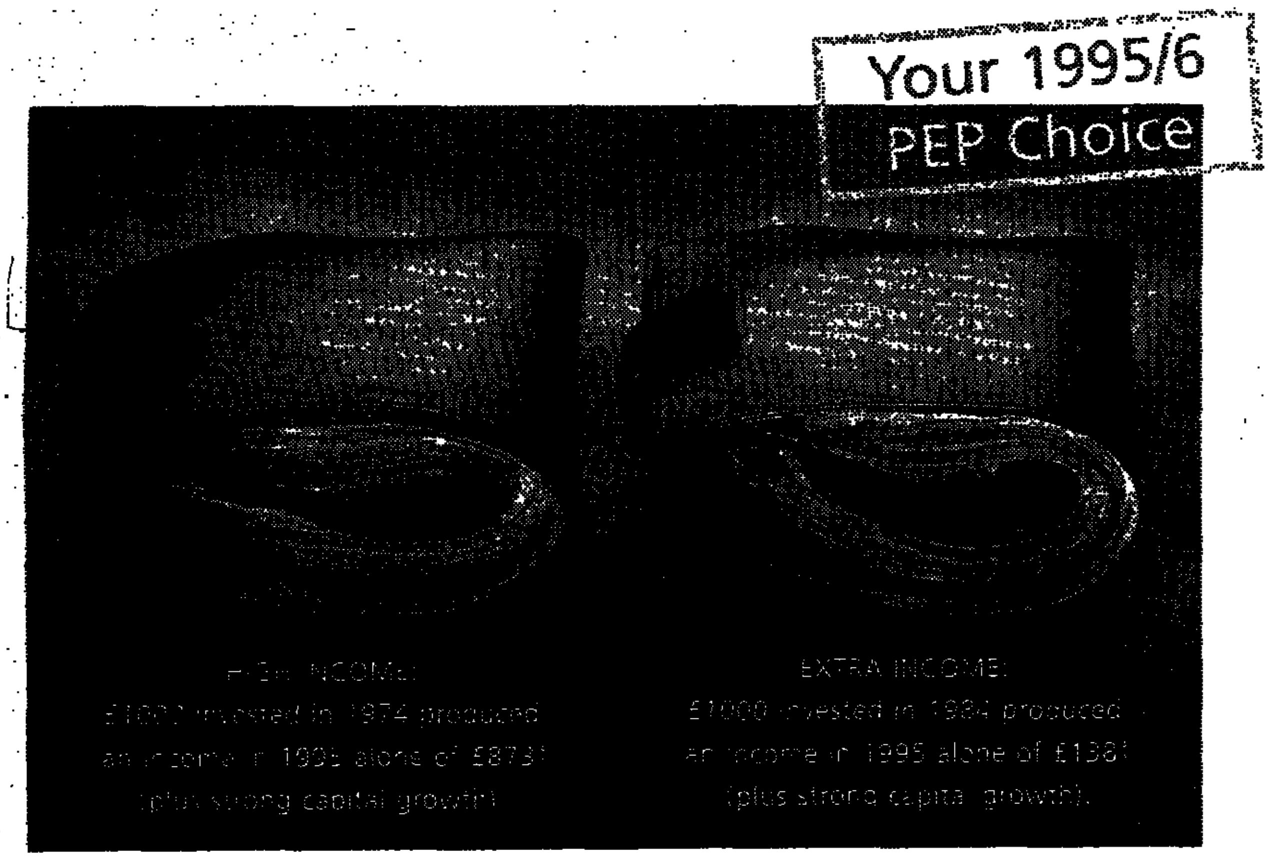
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Marianne Curphey on the case for distribution of the huge reserves amassed?

Societies could return millions

Britain's biggest building societies could pass on tens of millions of pounds of profits to their members by cutting mortgage rates and boosting savings but are reluctant to do so, it was claimed this week.

Homeowners could enjoy the benefit of a full 1 per cent cut in mortgage rates immediately if societies chose to redistribute their huge cash reserves now.

But despite talk of a "mortgage war" — as leading societies reduce rates to steal each other's custom — many are still sitting on huge profits which are not ploughed back to their members, according to Rob Thomas, housing analyst with UBS.

This week the Britannia and the Birmingham Midshires said savings and mortgage rates were "under review" after the Bradford & Bingley's 0.25 per cent mortgage cut on Wednesday. The Britannia said it was looking at giving "loyalty incentives, bonuses and rewards" to members. The Nationwide has hinted it intends to improve rates for savers and borrowers in April, the end of its financial year.

Mr Thomas says the 20 largest building societies will have made £3.7 billion pre-tax profit in 1995, an increase of 15 per cent on the previous year. They could easily afford to cut rates by 1 per cent, which would cost them two thirds of their profits but would win the goodwill of their customers by putting an extra £40 a month into the pocket of a homeowner with a £50,000 endowment mortgage.

Mr Thomas says: "The societies only need to retain a third of their profits. By giving away two thirds of profits they would lower their price in the market and make it easier for them to stay mutual. But they forgot about mutuality in the 1980s when they made huge profits which they are now just sitting on."

Brian Davis, chief executive of the Nationwide, said: "We have a similar philosphy to the Bradford & Bingley. The benefits of being a mutual is that we have only customers, and not shareholders, to satisfy. But it is a very tough market, and it is going to get even more competitive."

Homeowners could enjoy an immediate 1 per cent reduction in mortgage rates

The move by Bradford & Bingley, the sixth largest society, is an attempt to show that mutuality — where a society is owned by its members, rather than by shareholders — offers tangible long-term value.

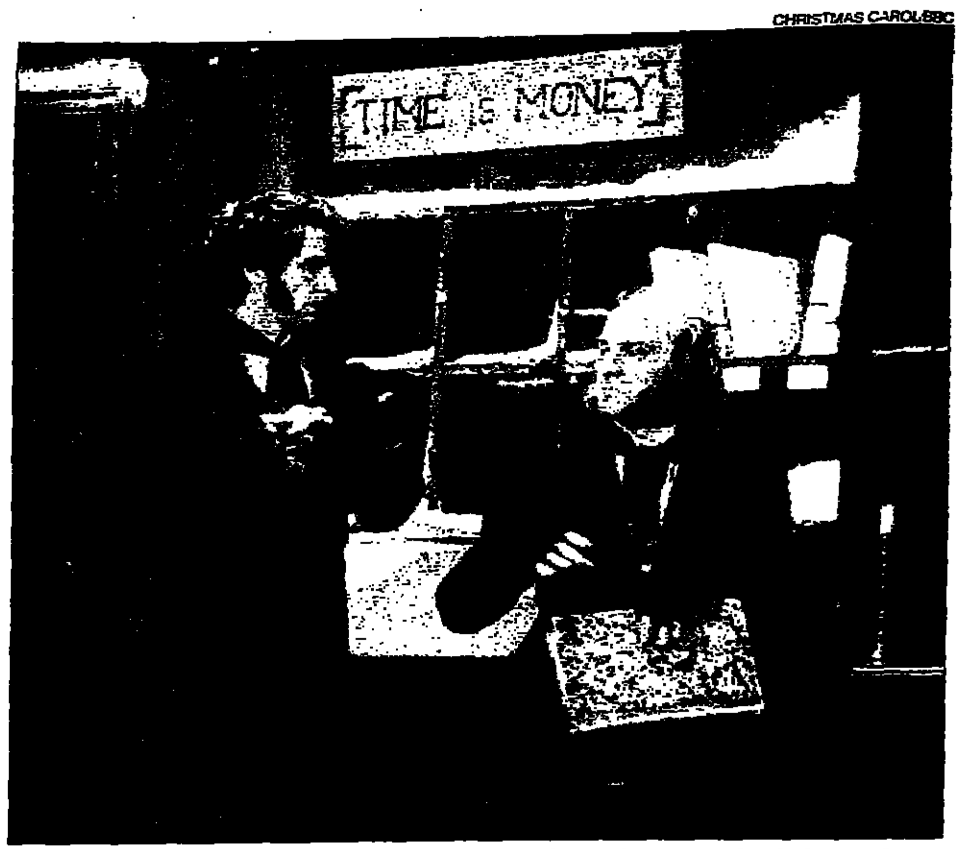
The mortgage rate cut and the freezing of savings rates in a climate of cuts in bank base rates will, according to Dr John Wriglesworth, Bradford & Bingley's head of strategy, return profits of at least £50 million a year to savers and borrowers and account for a third of reported pre-tax profit in 1994.

He defended the decision not to pay more, or earlier, by saying that cash reserves need to be kept high to satsify regulators and credit rating agencies.

He added: "After building up strong cash reserves in the 1980s we do not now need to sit on so much profit and we believe there is room to distribute further benefits to customers. We plan, though we cannot promise, to expand the benefits we offer our members."

The Yorkshire, which insists it is committed to mutuality, has already said it will spend an estimated £20 million of profits in 1996 giving more competitive rates to savers and borrowers. After the housing market crashed in 1989 and demand for mortgage products slumped, building societies resorted to "churning" — stealing each other's custom — in order to sell new mortgages. The Bradford & Bingley believes its latest move will help to retain customers.

CHRISTMAS CAROL/BBC



The bigger building societies may no longer be deemed Scrooges by their members

Lloyds lures free-spenders with low-rate card

Lloyds, the first of the high street banks to impose a fee for its credit card, is attempting to attract free-spending customers from its rivals by offering a card with no fee, for one year only. Lloyds will offer a temporarily low interest rate. Thereafter, those with lower balances will pay a slightly higher rate of interest.

The move could mean other card companies, attempting to appeal to those who do not clear their balance each month, may have to cut their fees.

From Monday, Lloyds Bank Mastercard will be available at high street branches, alongside its Access and Gold cards. Regardless of their balance, Lloyds Bank Mastercard customers will pay 1.25 per cent a month, or 16 per cent APR, for the first six months.

Customers who have more than £2,000 on their accounts will continue to pay the same rate thereafter, while those with £1,000-£2,000 will be charged 1.57 per cent per month or 20.5 per cent APR. Those with less than £1,000 will be charged 1.62 per cent per month or 21.2 per cent APR.

Ian Lindsey, executive banking director at Flemings/Save & Prosper, said: "Their rates are generally in line with everyone else. They're trying to encourage customers with a lot of money to switch to their card, but they might as well switch to one like Flemings, charging 0.94 per cent or Royal Bank of Scotland Mastercard charging 1.14 per cent." He added: "Neither Flemings nor Royal Bank of Scotland Mastercard gives an interest-free period, but that's only of relevance if you're settling your account in full."

Mr Lindsey said the interest rate on Lloyds Bank Mastercard is higher than its Access card for customers borrowing £1,000 or less. Interest rates are the same on both cards for those borrowing between £1,000-£2,000. He added the only benefits are for those borrowing more than £2,000. "Lloyds are being protective. They need to offer this rate in case they lose customers."

On waiving the £10 annual fee, he said: "That might be something Flemings could be forced into doing. On average, people spend £1,500 a year on credit cards. If they each spend an extra £300, Lloyds makes an extra £5 a year."

Sandy Wanstall, credit card manager at Lloyds said: "Customers also have the opportunity never to pay a fee if they spend £1,800 a year or £150 a month — which is only three trips to their local supermarket. They can try it out for six months free to see how it fits their lifestyle and spending pattern."

Every time customers use their Lloyds Bank Mastercard they will be automatically entered into a monthly prize draw. The more transactions they make, the greater their chance of winning. Among the prizes are 1,000 Boots gift vouchers, five £1,000 Thomas Cook holiday vouchers and a Rover 214Si car. Customers will also be entered into a £500 daily draw on completing their application forms.

MORAG PRESTON

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	pm %	APR pchses	APR cash	Cost of borrowing £1,000 pa
Flemings/Save&Prosper (£12 annual fee)	1.00	14.6	16.1	£138.80
Flemings/Save&Prosper[1] "Base Rate option"	0.94	11.8	14.8	£118.40
Bank of Scotland (£10 annual fee)	1.57	21.7	23.6	£215.55
Barclays Mastercard (£10 annual fee)	1.63	22.6	24.5	£224.12
Clydesdale Access (£10 annual fee)	1.69	23.5	23.5	£282.75
The Express Card (£12 annual fee)	1.00	14.6	16.1	£138.80
General Motors (HFC Bank)	1.60	20.9	20.9	£209.83
Lloyds Access (£12 annual fee)[2]	1.57	22.0	23.9	£217.55
Lloyds Mastercard (£10 annual fee)[4]				
Under £1,000	1.62	21.2	22.4	£222.69
£1,000[3]	1.57	20.5	21.1	£215.55
£2,000[3]	1.25	16.0	16.2£160.00	
Midland Access (£12 annual fee)	1.59	22.3	24.2	£220.40
Natwest Access (£12 anual fee)	1.67	23.4	25.3	£231.87
Royal Bank of Scotland Access (£10 annual fee)	1.67	23.2	23.2	£229.87
Royal bank of Scotland Mastercard[1]	1.14	14.5	14.5	£145.71
The Sun Card (£12 annual fee)[1]	1.53	21.9	21.9	£211.80
TSB Mastercard				
Under £1,000	1.67	21.9	22.5	£219.87
£1,500[3]	1.60	20.9	21.6	£209.83
£3,000[3]	1.38	17.9	18.7	£178.70

[1] No interest free period; [2] Additional fee of £8 for second card issued; [3] Annual fee waived for the first year and thereafter if more than £1,000 per annum; [4] Annual fee waived for the first year and thereafter if more than £1,800 per annum

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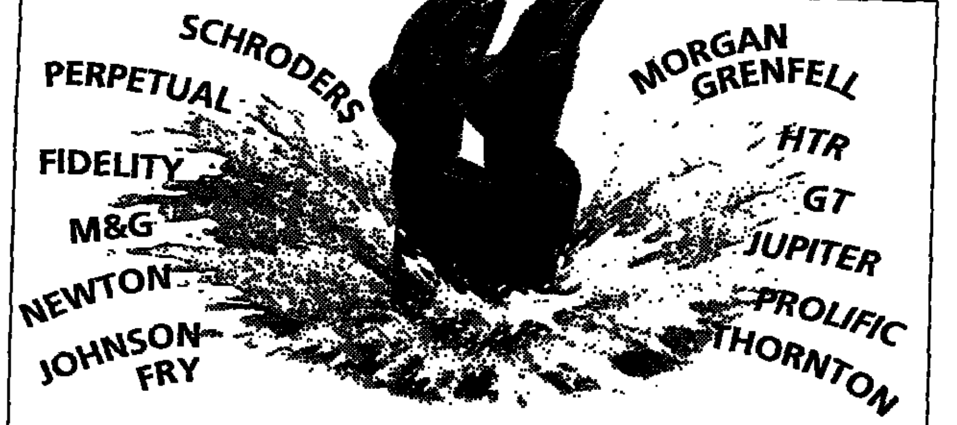

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ANGUS MEWSE

Tax threat takes shine off guaranteed-income bonds

Caroline Merrell

says that National Savings bonds will return to favour

A Budget tax cut, reducing the rate of income tax on building society and bank deposits from 25 per cent to 20 per cent threatens the future of guaranteed-income bonds, one of the most popular investments of the Nineties. Around £340 million was invested in these bonds last year alone.

The change to the taxation regime from April will make many of the guaranteed-income bonds on the market less attractive than the equivalent National Savings scheme.

Guaranteed income bonds pay a fixed level of income for a fixed term, guaranteeing to pay back the capital at the end of the term. Basic-rate taxpayers do not have to pay tax on the income from the bond, because the insurance fund has already paid tax. Higher-rate tax payers only pay tax at the marginal rate — 15 per cent.

Many bonds offer a growth option, which means the income can be reinvested. Rates of return on some of the guaranteed income bonds range from 4.75 to 6.7 per cent depending on the length of time you wish to keep your money tied up for. The higher the rate, the longer you are locked in. National Savings has a number *of comparable products. But unlike* guaranteed income bonds, these will be taxed from April at the new 20 per cent savings rate. For example, the five-year Capital Bonds offered a fixed interest rate of 7.75 per cent, if the bond is held to maturity. After the deduction of tax at 20 per cent, this will be worth 6.2 per cent. This week this bond was replaced by a new capital bond which only pays a fixed interest of 6.65 per cent, making it more *important for investors to hold on to their* 7.75 per cent bonds until the end of the term. If you want to cash in your certificates before the end, you will receive a lower rate.

National Savings also offers a Pensioners Bond which, after another Budget change, can be bought by anyone over 60. This used to pay 7.5 per cent (6 per cent, net of the new tax rate), but after this week's change will only pay 7 per cent (5.6 per cent net).

Charles Levett-Scrivener, director of Towry Law, the independent financial adviser, said: "We compared the rates on GIBs with National Savings investments and found the gap between the two has *narrowed as a result of the introduction of* the savings tax. Net returns on National Savings have been boosted as a result of the Budget, while rates on Gibs have not changed."

He added that the Government was making it more difficult for companies to offer guaranteed-income bonds with high rates of income. "Now only those companies who have more expenses than income are able to offer competitive rates," he said.

This peculiarity of life office taxation means only some of the smaller companies such as Hamilton Life (a subsidiary of US company HFC), Pinnacle Insurance, Consolidated Financial and Premium Life can offer competitive products — a fact which marginally raises the risk. Mr Levett-Scrivener added that the Government was reviewing the tax treatment of life assurance policies, and it was clear it did *not like way companies exploited their expenses* to be able to offer guaranteed bonds. He believes it plans to outlaw them except those already in existence.

One other way of achieving high levels of guaranteed income is through investing in Government securities. Five-year gilts are now yielding about 6.4 per cent. But income from gilts is taxable, which can make the eventual returns lower than other forms of fixed-interest security. Falls in interest rates over the past few years means many gilts are trading at a far higher price than their issue price, which in turn means that if they are held to maturity, taxpayers could *end up losing a lot of their returns in tax.*

Guaranteed investments are popular forms of saving. Sun Alliance this week launched a corporate bond Pep that guarantees the capital if it is held for more than six years. The Pep is currently yielding 6.95 per cent income.

For a guide to insurance bonds: Towry Law, Baylis House, Stoke Poges Lane, Slough, Berks SL1 3PB. (01753 554400).

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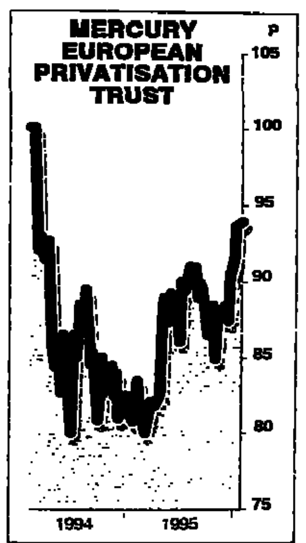

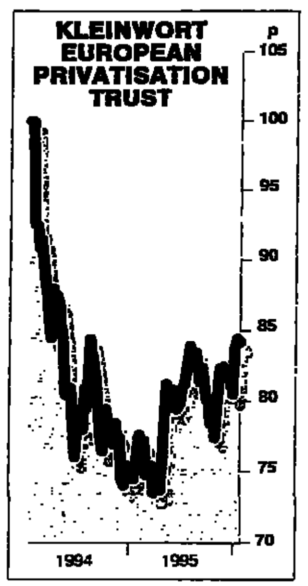

Roll up for the big buyback as Euro shares hit buffers

Kleinwort Benson is considering buying back shares in its European Privatisation Investment Trust in a move to placate angry investors who have seen the value of their shares fall to an 11 per cent discount since the fund was launched.

Simon White, a director of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, said: "We believe that the solution to the problem of the discount is to try and increase demand for the shares." The company was trying to do this, he added, through a series of roadshows for intermediaries, while watching the effectiveness of a rival share buyback scheme in narrowing the discount.

Just before Christmas, Mercury Asset Management announced that it intended to buy back shares in its European Privatisation Trust to reduce a discount that was then running at 19 per cent. A discount means that the shares in a trust are trading at less than their net asset value.

Even if the managers of the trust invest wisely and the net asset value increases, shareholders who want to sell will be unable to reap the rewards of good fund management because they will not be able to get what the shares are worth. Discounts are generated when there are more sellers of shares than buyers.

TRUST WATCH

Mercury this week finalised the details of its share buyback scheme, which involves the trust issuing preference shares to raise money to buy back shares. The shares are then cancelled out, which results in a narrowing of the discount and an increase in net asset value.

Lough Callahan, Mercury fund manager, blamed the creation of a big discount in the fund on a change of market sentiment at the beginning of 1994, when the trust was unveiled.

Mercury's fund attracted about £500 million from 70,000 investors, who were sold on the idea of buying shares in newly privatised companies in Europe.

They were aiming to achieve some of the gains experienced by those investing in privatised companies in the UK, but their hopes have so far failed to materialise. The situation was not helped by economic woes and private-sector strikes in France.

Mr Callahan said: "The US increased interest rates at the beginning of 1994, which had an effect on confidence."

Many people sold their shares immediately after launch, which generated the discount. Kleinwort Benson attracted a similer amount of money from around 72,000 investors. The share price of the KB trust is now 89p, compared with 100p at launch, while the share price of the Mercury is now 98p, compared with the 100p at launch.

The net asset value of the Kleinwort trust has increased to 100.5p since launch, while the net asset value of the Mercury trust has increased to 113p. Even though Mercury's share buyback has not yet started, the discount has narrowed dramatically, from 19 to 15 per cent, since the programme was announced. Mr Callahan believes that it will take between 12 and 16 months before it is cleared.

As well as hoping to give more value to shareholders through the buyback, the investment house is hoping to increase interest in the shares through a series of roadshows and by an offer on its savings plan.

Mr Callahan believes that this year should be a good one for European shares. Last year proved to be a difficult one for European fund managers looking for value in privatisation stocks.

Many of the newest privatisations were in countries suffering the effects of currency weakness, affecting in turn the net asset value of the fund. Mr Callahan said that some of the shares in newly privatised European companies had fallen immediately after privatisation — an event which is almost unheard of in the UK.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Striking private-sector workers in France have contributed to a lack of faith in European privatisation stocks

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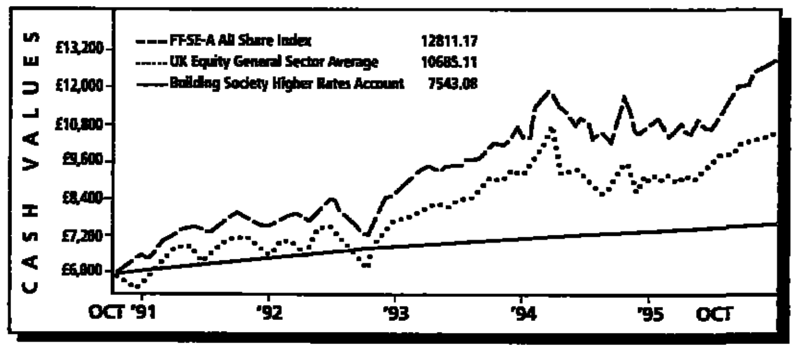

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Treasury to cut back on Ernie's nice little earners

THE £1 million Premium Bond jackpot this week survived a round of Treasury cost cutting — but at the expense of the growing number of small payouts of £50 and £100.

From May 1, National Savings will reduce the number of smaller prizes, increase the number of larger prizes and limit the overall number of prizes to 350,000 a month. The interest rate on Premium Bond investments, used to fund prize money, will be cut from 5.2 per cent to 4.75 per cent, effectively cutting the amount of money available to pay out as prizes.

There will be no cap on the amount of money going into the fund, but National Savings will no longer allocate a prize for every £15,000 invested, so the odds on winning a prize will not be fixed. Based on last month's sales figures, the odds will lengthen from 15,000:1 to 17,200:1.

National Savings argues that it has been a victim of its own success since the £1 million jackpot was introduced in April 1994. Sales of Premium Bonds have soared from £619 million in 1993 to £1.8 billion in 1995.

There was no set number of smaller prizes, which grew as Premium Bond investments grew, pushing up costs. Research from customers also showed they wanted more medium and larger prizes. National Savings has divided the Premium Bond fund into bands. Of the fund, 10 per cent will be paid out in prizes of £5,000 to £1 million, compared with 6.6 per cent last month. A further 15 per cent will be paid out in prizes of between £500 and £1,000 (12.7 per cent). The remainder will be used for prizes of £50 and £100 (80 per cent).

Other National Savings accounts have also felt the Treasury axe. From yesterday, fixed-rate accounts were replaced with new issues at lower rates, while rates on variable rate accounts fell.

Rates across the board have fallen between 0.25 per cent, and 1.1 per cent on Children's Bonus Bonds and Capital bonds, the hardest hit. Pensioners over 60 whose applications for Guaranteed Income bonds were received by Thursday this week, will still qualify for the higher rate of 7.5 per cent gross. Others will get 7 per cent.

■ We apologise to readers of the A to Z of Personal Finance, which went to press just before the National Savings cuts were announced. The figures quoted on page nine contain the old rates.

SARA McCONNELL

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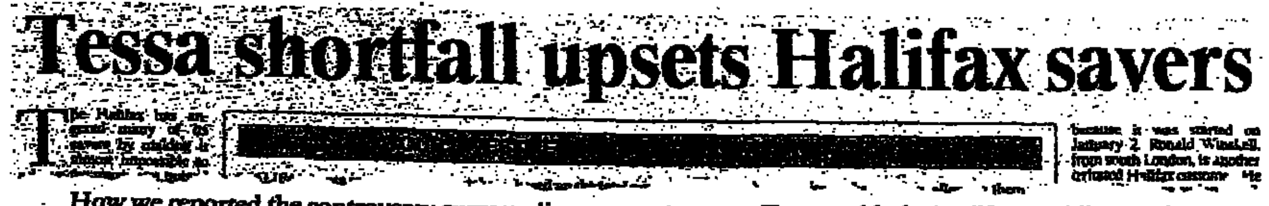
Caroline Merrell on the trail of more Tessa troubles



Tessa shortfall upsets Halifax savers

[redacted]

How we reported the controversy surrounding poor returns on Tessas with the Halifax Building Society

Certificate delay causes savers pain

PETER TRIEVNOR

Waiting game: Elsie Webb lost patience with Barclays

As £21 billion worth of tax exempt special savings accounts reach the end of *their five-year term, the rates* on new accounts are not the only thing occupying the minds of Tessa holders.

After controversy over the differing payouts given to Halifax Tessa holders who opened their accounts in January 1991, it is now becoming *clear that the* maturity certificates, which savers need from their bank or building society if they want to reinvest their funds elsewhere, are being delayed.

Some savers believe that, in a fiercely competitive market, banks and building societies are holding up the certificates, in an attempt to dissuade customers from taking their cash elsewhere.

These *delays* could mean that savers miss out on some of the better deals available in the market.

Some of the fixed-rate accounts are limited to the number of savers they can accept. For example, after the cut in base rates, some institutions are now lowering the rates on their fixed-rate Tessas. The West Bromwich Building Society this week reduced the rate of its fixed-rate Follow-up Tessa from 7.55 per cent to 7.35 per cent.

For Elsie Webb, a pensioner from Reading, the dilatory behaviour of Barclays in delivering her maturity certificate was the final straw in a worsening relationship with the bank.

Mrs Webb said: "My Barclays Tessa matured on January 10. I returned an instruction form requesting the money should be paid into a new Abbey National Tessa, and the details and certificate be sent to my home address.

"I got in touch with Barclays again on January 19, and received a statement by second class post on January 20, but not a certificate of maturity."

She finally received her maturity certificate on January 22, 12 days after her Tessa matured.

She said: "I got so mad with Barclays, I shall just be keeping a small current account with them from now on."

Barclays, at first, insisted it sent out all maturity certificates by first class post immmediately, but then admitted they had made an administrative error.

A spokeswoman said: "We *wrote to all our customers* back in October asking what they intended to do when their Tessas matured. We were overwhelmed by the response and there were further delays over Christmas."

The Halifax also suffered a glitch with some of its maturity certificates earlier this month, when computer problems caused delays.

The Halifax claimed *that* the problem was sorted out quickly and that it had complied with the Inland Revenue rules, which state that maturity certificates have to be sent out within 30 days.

Second wave is linked to market growth

The second wave of tax exempt special *savings accounts also includes* a group of accounts that paradoxically give savers some exposure to the stock market. Companies offering these accounts, include HSBC, the fund manager, the Birmingham Midshires Building Society, the Bristol & West Building Society and Lloyds Bank. The accounts pay a minimum interest rate, or a return linked to the rise in the UK stock market over a five-year period, whichever is the greater.

Equity-linked Tessas are aimed at investors prepared to take a little more *risk with their money over the next five* years. If interest rates remain at their current low levels, the maximum return that could be achieved on these accounts *is higher than the maximum which could* be achieved from a more conventional account. But if inflation and interest rates rise, the situation may be reversed.

HSBC's Tessa, which has a £3,000 minimum, will give a guaranteed 5 per cent interest rate. Investors will also get a 1 per cent maturity bonus for each 1 per cent the FT-SE 100 rises above 25 per cent over the five years. The bonuses stop if the index rises by more than 30 per cent, which makes the maximum amount of interest 9.16 per cent, with a minimum of *5 per cent. Alan Gadd, HSBC managing* director, said 1.6 million people had registered an interest. "Many building societies were assuming their savers *would just reinvest," he said.*

The Birmingham Midshires is offering two Tessas, one with a minimum 5.5 per cent interest rate, the other with 4 per cent. It will also give savers an extra bonus equal to the rise in FT-SE over the five years, if it is greater than than the minimum interest. The Bristol & West offers savers the greater of an annual interest rate of 4 per cent plus 1 per cent of the first year's investment, or the rise in the index, while Lloyds offers a minimum interest of 5 per cent, or the percentage *rise in the index which ever is greater.*

CAROLINE MERRELL

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A minimum advance of £15,000 is required. Typical example of costs repayable for a 4.69% (5.0%APR) mortgage fixed until 28th February 1998. Married couple, aged 30 and 28 years, both non-smokers applying for an endowment mortgage of £27,375 towards the purchase of a property priced £36,500 over 25 years. 300 monthly mortgage payments of £90.94 net of basic rate tax. Monthly endowment premium of £42.52. Total amount payable £56,945.54 (total amount payable before MIRAS deduction is £61,675.31). The APR shown is typical and calculated on the assumption that the interest rate will remain at 4.69% after the fixed period has expired, for the remainder of the mortgage term. However, at the end of the relevant fixed rate period, the Society's prevailing standard variable mortgage rate will in fact apply. APR calculated to include solicitor's costs £119.62, valuation fee £70, administration fee £195, accrued interest £55.72, sealing fee £50 and 300 Payment Protection Plus premiums totalling £1,650 including insurance premium tax. This typical example is calculated using costs incurred in England. Costs may vary in Scotland. Any life policy sold in conjunction with this scheme will be provided by GA Life. *A first charge over your property will be required as security. All mortgages are subject to status and valuation and are* not available to persons under 18 years of age. A mortgage risk charge will be required if the loan exceeds 75% of the valuation. APRs are typical and variable. MIRAS has been calculated at 15%. Details are correct at the time of going to press.

The Society introduces only to General Accident Life, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, for life assurance, pensions and investments.

Full written quotations are available on request from your local branch or from Newcastle Building Society Principal Office, Portland House, New Bridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8AL.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE
OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

How much will you save in Private Medical Insurance premiums?

EXETER FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Joining Age	Cumulative Savings*
50	£9,248.04
51	£8,895.35
52	£8,542.66
53	£8,189.97
54	£7,837.28
55	£7,484.59
56	£7,036.14
57	£6,587.69
58	£6,139.24
59	£5,690.79
60	£5,242.34
61	£4,848.79
62	£4,455.24
63	£4,061.69
64	£3,668.14
65	£3,274.59
66	£2,758.99
67	£2,243.39
68	£1,727.79
69	£1,212.19
70	£696.59

** Comparison with the leading private medical insurer illustrating the savings realised without automatic age increases.*

Figures shown are BEFORE any premium increases resulting from rises in medical inflation

Join Exeter Friendly Society today and the savings start today. Because the Exeter is the only leading private medical insurer which **does not increase subscription rates automatically based on age.**

Join the Exeter today and your age-related subscription rate is fixed for life. **You will never have to pay more based on growing older!**

As the chart on the right clearly shows the savings are substantial. And **the sooner you join the more you save.**

Anyone under the age of 80 may join Exeter Friendly Society. It would pay you to find out how much the Exeter can save you – *even if your renewal date is later in the year.*

For further details please telephone **01392 498063**, fax 01392 421480 or complete the coupon.

I am under 80 years of age please send me details of your private medical insurance plans.

Mr/Mrs/Ms ______

Address ______

______ Postcode ______

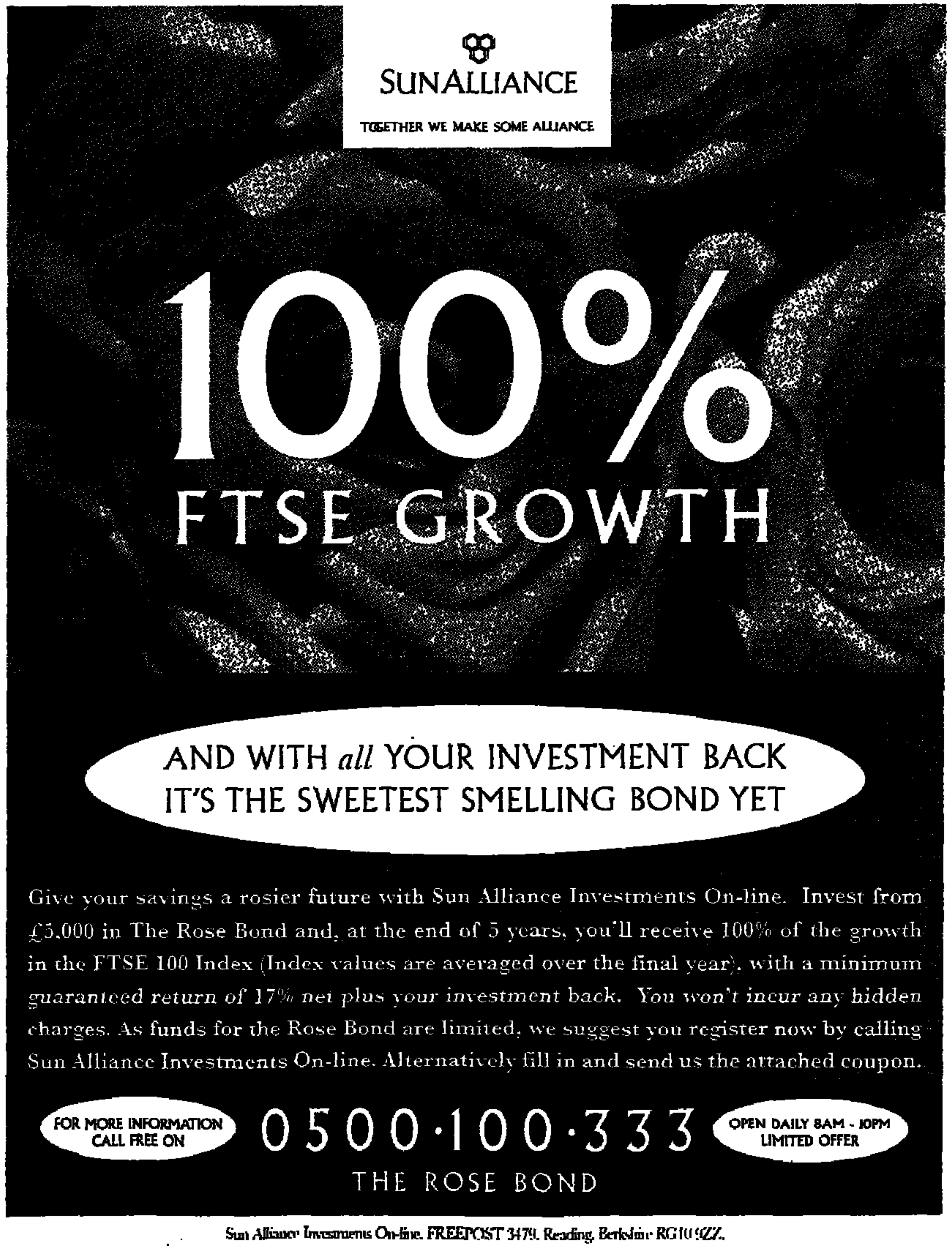
Telephone ______ Ages of people to be included ______

I am currently insured with______

50 PLAN EXETER FRIENDLY SOCIETY TI 02/96

Beech Hill House, Walnut Gardens, Exeter EX4 4DG

For your protection all telephone conversations are recorded. Please bear in mind that the current tax situation could change in the future. Sun Alliance Investments On-line is a trading name of Phoenix Assurance plc, which is registered in England with No 71805 (Registered Office: 1 Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB). Phoenix Assurance plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. FT-SE is a registered trade mark of The London Stock Exchange and the Financial Times Ltd, neither of whom endorse this product. The FT-SE 100 is the proprietary interest of The London Stock Exchange and has been licensed for use by Phoenix Assurance plc. All copyright in the Index values and constituent list vests in FT-SE International Limited.



SUNALLIANCE

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100% FTSE GROWTH

AND WITH *all* YOUR INVESTMENT BACK IT'S THE SWEETEST SMELLING BOND YET

Give your savings a rosier future with Sun Alliance Investments On-line. Invest from £5,000 in The Rose Bond and, at the end of 5 years, you'll receive 100% of the growth in the FTSE 100 Index (Index values are averaged over the final year), with a minimum *guaranteed return of 17% net plus your investment back. You won't incur any hidden* charges. As funds for the Rose Bond are limited, we suggest you register now by calling Sun Alliance Investments On-line. Alternatively fill in and send us the attached coupon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREE ON 0500·100·333 OPEN DAILY 8AM - 10PM LIMITED OFFER

THE ROSE BOND

Sun Alliance Investments On-line. FREEPOST 3479. Reading, Berkshire RG10 9ZZ.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms ...... Surname ...... Forename(s) ......

Address ......

Postcode ...... Telephone ...... EX

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Payment due for power shares

THE second instalment deadline on the partly paid National Power and Powergen shares is 3pm on Tuesday, February 6. This means that all cheques *must be received* by the registrars by Thursday, February 1. One and a half million payment notices have been posted in respect of all current holdings, representing an instalment value of £1.1 billion. Shareholders who took up the Government's offer to buy in March 1995 must respond to these payment notices to retain the right to their shares as well as any future dividends on them. The National Power helpline is 01903 503 733, and *PowerGen's is 0117 975 1592.*

■ NatWest has announced reduced dealing rates on its BrokerLine telephone share dealing service. For a deal above £4,000, the new commission rate is 0.1 per cent, compared with a previous charge of 0.4 per cent. Key features of BrokerLine include settlement by direct debit and real-time dealing. For further information, call BrokerLine on 0171 895 5018.

■ The Association of Solicitor Investment Managers (Asim), a group of solicitors specialising in portfolio management, has published its directory of members for 1996. Each of Asim's 37 full members are profiled, complete *with a check list of services* offered and the level of funds under management. The directory also carries a section explaining how Crest, the new Stock Exchange settlement scheme, will affect private investors from July. For a free copy, call Asim on 01892 870065 or write to Asim, Chiddingstone Causeway, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 8JX.

■ The Bank of England has produced a paper setting out plans for an official facility for *stripping gilt-edged securities* into separate interest and capital elements, which could then be held independently and traded. This has been made possible by the reforms on the taxation of gilts and bonds announced by the Chancellor in July 1995 and implemented in the current Finance Bill. Copies of the paper are available from, and practitioner responses should be sent to, The Head of Gilt-Edged and Money Markets Div, Bank of England, Threadneedle St, London EC2R 8AH.

LIZANNE ROSE

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Teachers BS 0800 378669	Bullion Share	Instant	£500	5.55	½Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 303330	Direct Savings	Postal	£5,000	5.75	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 303330	Direct Savings	Postal	£25,000	6.00	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£30,000	6.50	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Cheltenham & Glouc 0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day p	£1,000	6.50	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day p	£10,000	6.75	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day p	£25,000	7.10	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal 120	120 dayp	£25,000	7.20	Yly

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Bank of Ireland 0800 833937		5 Year	£500	7.25	F/Yly
Allied Trust Bank 0171 626 0879		5 Year	£9,000	7.25	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505		5 Year	£3,000	7.25	Yly
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 Year	£25	7.25	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.94%G	12.10%	Nil C
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Frizzell Bank 0800 373191	Mastercard/Visa	1.17%	16.10%	£11

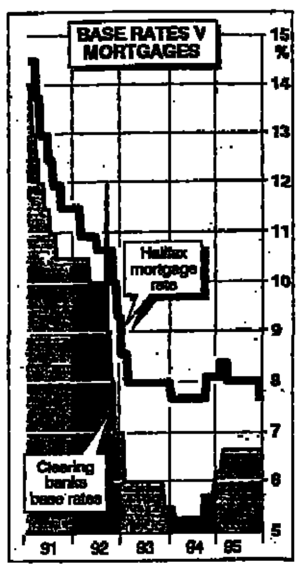
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

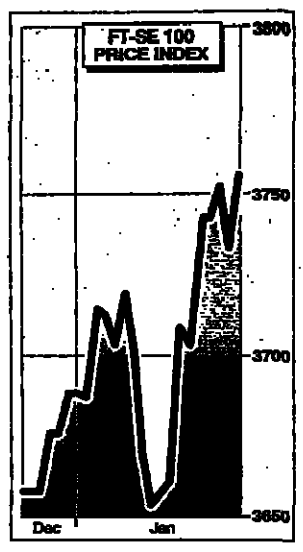
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%E	£116.54	£103.14
Direct Line 0141 2489966	14.90%E	£114.41	£102.59
Abbey National 0345 545556	15.50%E	£115.18	£103.26

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

*	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c¹	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* ε	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500**	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* ε	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-250,000	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bondε	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†ε	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.85			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond ε	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†ε	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 ε	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-50,000ε	60day	01253766151

*¹ first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 ² Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble εGuaranteed when held for 5 years ¤0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ ¤£40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings¶ Taxable but cred in full.* **Tiered rates over £500.

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential..........Level	£10,012	£11,038	£12,418
Stndrd Life ....Level	£9,956	£11,024	£12,416
Canada Life.........Level	£9,843	£11,018	£12,607
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£9,972	£11,016	£12,442
Royal Life ....Level	£9,851	£10,987	£12,527

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£9,251	£9,993	£11,078
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£9,230	£9,970	£11,063
Royal Life ....Level	£9,119	£9,957	£11,189
Scott Widows........Level	£9,230	£9,870	£10,830
Canada Life ....Level	£9,010	£9,856	£11,092

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£8,897	£9,454	£10,261
Generali ....Level	£9,119	£9,732	£10,581
Sun Lf of Canada Level	£8,855	£9,429	£10,249
Stalwart* ....Level	£8,682	£9,351	£10,129
MGM Assurance..Level	£8,678	£9,303	£10,190

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at January 25, 1996

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.65
	10,000	AIG Life	4.75
	20,000	AIG Life	4.85
	50,000	AIG Life	5.00
2 Years			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.93
	10,000	AIG Life	5.03
	20,000	AIG Life	5.18
	50,000	AIG Life	5.33
3 Years			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.02
	20,000	AIG Life	5.22
	50,000	AIG Life	5.33
	100,000	AIG Life	5.42
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.20
	20,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.30
	50,000	Fncial Assrnce	5.40
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.50
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.20

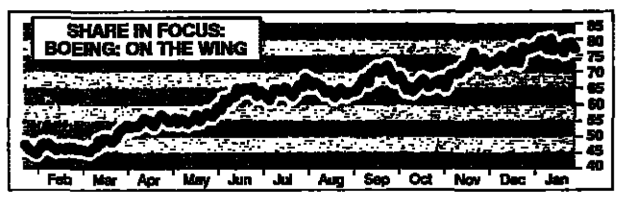
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	101.98	9.183	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	124.76	9.304	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	138.55	9.360	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	143.44	9.302	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	138.31	9.381	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	128.99	9.376	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	118.94	9.868	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	96.57	9.061	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	129.39	9.046	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	149.49	9.065	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	143.00	9.333	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	118.74	9.038	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	138.94	9.064	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	138.70	9.081	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	139.17	9.232	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	9.24766%	103.63	100.00	1,000
First National(20/03-20/09)	9.30000%	100.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fixed rate to 30.11.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	1.19	to £100k	90	6.25% discount to 1.3.97
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.39	neg	95	6% disc 1 year 2% disc 18 mths
Banks				
Barclays 0800 000929	3.74	£15k+	90	3.75% discount for 1 year
Nat Westminster 0800 2342000	2.54	£15k+	75	5.20% dsc-12mths Var rate-31.3.99

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol & West 0800 100117	0.70	£15k+	90	Fixed rate to 30.11.96
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.35	to £150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 months
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.09	£30-100k	95	6.10% discount for 1 year
Banks				
Bank of Ireland *01734 510100*	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.00%dsc-6 mth *3% dsc-6 mth*
Nat West Bank 0121 234 2000	2.54	£15k+	75	5.20% dsc-12mth var rt-31.3.99

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	1.89	none	95	fixed to 1.12.96
Bristol & West 0800 100117	2.50	£15k+	95	4.74% discount for 12 months
Skipton 0800 446776	1.49	£25-150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.00% disc-6mths, 3.00% disc-6mths
TSB 0121 600 6147	3.75	£15k+	95	3.74% discount for 12 months

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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http://www.iii.co.uk/cdv
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	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	523.70	554.20	+ 1.00	...
UK Equity	659.30	697.70	- 3.60	...
Property	514.70	544.70	+ 0.50	..
Fixed Interest	363.60	384.80	.	...
Money	261.60	276.90	+ 0.20	...
International	452.10	478.50	+ 0.90	..
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL				
01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	249.00	262.20	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc	490.20	516.10	+ 1.00	...
Equity Fd Inc	199.70	210.30	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	273.91	289.40	+ 0.10	...
Selective Fd	531.30	559.30	+ 0.30	...
Money Fd	396.50	417.40	+ 0.50	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	374.30	394.00	+ 0.80	..
Equity Ser 4	253.40	266.80	+ 0.10	..
Man Ser 4	744.90	784.20	+ 2.00	..
Conv Ser 4	343.10	361.20	+ 0.40	.
Money Ser 4	342.70	360.80	+ 0.40	.
Fixed Int Ser 4	378.00	398.00	- 0.30	..
American Ser 4	587.10	618.00	+13.70	...
High Inc Ser 4	769.60	809.10	- 0.90	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	226.30	238.30	.	0
Japan Ser 4	360.70	380.20	+ 0.20	..
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ				
01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1750.20	1844.00	+10.70	.
European Fd Acc	413.70	435.40	+ 1.60	..
Fixed Int Acc	560.20	589.60	+ 0.70	.
Gtd Money Acc	349.20	367.70	+ 0.20	.
Intl Managed Acc	679.10	714.80	+ 4.10	
Int Fxd Int Acc	567.30	597.10	- 0.41	
Japan Fund	271.20	285.50	- 3.50	
N American Acc	377.70	397.60	+ 5.60	.
Prop Fd Acc	454.00	477.90	+ 0.10	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1151.30	1211.80	+ 5.70	..
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL				
01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	391.40	411.20	+ 0.30	.
Equity Acc	1636.90	1691.50	- 5.00	
Property Acc	610.40	642.60	+ 0.30	...
Far East Acc	347.40	365.70	+ 0.10	..
Managed Capital	557.10	610.00	- 1.70	.
-do- Acc	1232.70	1297.60	- 3.60	.
Overseas Acc	1069.30	1125.60	- 1.30	.
Gilt Edged Acc	534.10	562.20	- 5.60	
Amer Equity Acc	995.30	1047.70	+14.90	..
Amer Man Acc	417.50	439.50	+ 9.00	...
Amer Prop Acc	119.40	125.70	+ 0.00	.
Distribution Bonds	25.10	26.40	- 0.20	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks				
01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	172.50	181.50	- 0.40	..
Balcd Ser 6	804.40	846.60	- 2.50	
Opportunity Ser 6	184.60	194.10	- 0.10	...
Distribution Ser 6	105.60	111.10	- 0.50	6.72
Uk Equities Ser 6	1124.70	1183.90	- 6.90	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1181.80	1243.90	- 7.80	..
North Amer Ser 6	526.70	554.10	+19.10	..
Far East Ser 6	622.40	655.60	+ 3.20	..
Europe Ser 6	434.20	457.00	- 4.40	..
Intnl Ser 6	555.80	585.10	+ 5.70	
Property Ser 6	576.00	606.30	+ 0.60	..
Fixed Int Ser 6	484.70	510.20	- 2.40	..
Ind-Lnkd Sec Sn	197.50	207.90	- 0.50	..
Gteed Dep Ser 6	311.40	327.70	+ 0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB				
0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	966.70	1020.50	+ 0.60	..
-do- Initial	616.70	649.21	+ 0.40	..
Gilt Edged Acc	426.40	449.91	- 2.80	
-do- Initial	277.80	290.30	- 1.80	
International Acc	449.00	473.50	+ 2.80	.
-do- Initial	296.70	301.80	+ 1.70	..
Managed Acc	592.30	625.50	+ 1.00	...
-do- Initial	373.90	393.80	+ 0.60	..
Money Acc	304.30	320.40	+ 0.20	...
Property Acc	308.00	325.20	+ 0.40	..
-do- Initial	194.20	206.70	+ 0.10	..
America Acc	347.20	365.60	+ 6.00	..
Australia Acc	239.20	251.80	+ 2.70	..
Financial Acc	425.90	449.40	+ 4.90	..
500 Accum	491.40	517.30	+ 2.00	..
Japan Genl Acc	320.20	337.10	- 1.70	..
Income Acc	587.60	618.60	- 0.90	
Leisure Acc	295.50	310.90	+ 5.00	...
Special Sits Acc	388.50	410.60	+ 3.60	.
Univ Tech Acc	190.10	199.60	+ 1.00	..
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF				
01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	906.34	954.04	+ 1.03	...
Income Fund	859.41	905.16	+ 0.08	..
Extra Income	771.12	814.01	+ 0.28	...
Worldwide Gth	559.53	589.59	+ 6.01	...
Balanced Fund	750.03	789.51	- 0.55	..
Smllr Cos Recov	898.07	944.24	+11.38	...
N Amer & Genl	432.21	455.05	+ 8.82	...
Pacific Basin	474.05	499	+16.21	..
German Growth	261.13	274.90	+ 5.52	..
Japan Growth	197.60	208	- 1.77	..
The UK Gth Fd	248.46	253.14	+ 0.46	..
Contl Euro Gth	154.20	162.32	+ 1.06	...
Property Fund	411.97	432.60	+ 0.35	...
Fixed Interest	754.29	794.72	+ 0.00	...
Cash Fund	295.62	311.18	+ 0.24	..
Managed Inc	545.01	573.69	+ 0.89	...
Nth Amer Recov	294.44	309.94	+12.34	
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	532.67	560.71	+ 1.07	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE				
PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire				
01475 888000				
Managed Perf	182.20	192.90	+ 2.30	..
Performance Plus	196.40	207.80	+ 6.30	...
With Profit Pen	170.60	180.00	+ 0.10	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	213.70	226.10	+ 1.90	...
Euro Opportunity	235.60	249.30	- 0.80	...
North Amer Opp	198.30	209.80	+ 6.10	...
Far East Opp	217.30	229.90	+ 1.90	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	159.50	167.80	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	196.20	207.60	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int	214.30	226.70	- 0.80	...
Cash	164.30	173.80	...	6.49
Overseas	226.30	239.40	+ 7.20	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	391.20	411.80	+ 3.60	...
UK Equity	649.50	683.70	+ 2.30	..
Property	266.00	280.00	+ 0.20	...
Money Market	262.90	276.80	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	322.00	339.00	- 2.00	...
Japan	371.40	391.00	- 6.40	...
North America	184.10	193.80	+ 5.10	...
International	361.20	380.30	+11.30	..
European	307.60	323.80	- 1.20	..
Far East	155.80	164.00	+ 1.50	.
CANADA LIFE				
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA				
01707 51122				
Equity Growth ‡	277.90	...	...	...
Managed	375.50	395.30	- 3.30	...
Property	248.30	261.40	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	263.60	277.50	- 1.60	..
Equity	427.50	450.00	+ 5.10	...
Cash	224.80	236.70	+ 0.20	..
CLife Euro Mgd	431.50	454.30	+ 2.00	...
CLife Intl Fd	404.50	425.80	+ 5.10	..
Managed Fund	804.00	846.30	- 0.70	...
Property Fund	517.50	544.70	+ 0.30	..
Equity Fund	1064.20	1120.20	- 2.20	...
Gilt Edged Fd	674.60	710.10	- 4.30	..
Deposit Fund	347.20	365.50	- 0.30	.
Investment Fd	453.90	476.60	- 0.10	...
International	616.60	649.00	+ 1.70	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd,				
Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	163.40	172.00	...	...
Managed Fund	716.60	748.00	- 1.40	...
Equity Fund	413.70	435.40	- 1.10	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	325.80	343.00	- 0.80	..
Ruby	195.20	205.50	+ 1.40	..
Emerald	155.70	163.90	- 0.60	...
Equity	374.70	394.50	- 3.40	...
Property	232.60	244.90	+ 0.30	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	223.90	235.70	- 1.40	...
Indexed Secs	180.40	189.90	- 0.70	...
Cash	196.30	206.70	+ 0.10	...
Nth American	284.40	299.40	+ 7.30	...
Far East	365.00	384.30	+ 3.80	...
International	275.10	289.60	+ 1.70	.
Special Sits	397.90	418.90	+ 4.30	..
Intl Income	331.30	348.80	+ 1.40	..
American Inc	236.60	249.10	+ 4.60	...
European	372.50	392.20	- 2.50	...
Japanese	145.10	152.80	- 0.30	...
SE Asia	415.00	436.90	-11.70	...
With Profits Reg	176.90	186.30	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	176.90	186.30	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	377.00	396.90	- 0.10	
Equity	455.90	479.90	- 2.90	...
Property	213.50	224.80	- 0.10	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	285.20	300.30	- 1.70	...
Index Linked	191.20	201.30	- 0.60	..
Cash	266.10	280.20	+ 0.20	.
Nth American	357.10	376.00	+11.50	..
Far East Acc	346.20	364.50	+ 3.10	..
International Acc	348.80	367.20	+ 1.80	..
Special Sits	595.40	626.80	+10.80	...
European Flex	525.70	553.40	- 4.80	..
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units) Key 1	233.18	...	...	.
-do- Pacemaker ‡	345.62	...	...	..
-do- Cash	211.67	222.81	+ 0.15	..
-do- Equity	608.91	640.96	- 0.93	
-do- Fxd Int	394.37	415.13	- 3.43	...
-do- Managed	437.31	460.33	- 0.87	...
-do- Property	290.64	305.91	+ 1.70	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	212.29	223.47	+ 0.08	.
-do- Cash Inv	323.47	340.51	+ 0.35	..
-do- Equity Cap	[illegible]	[illegible]	- 7.76	...
-do- Equity Inv	[illegible]	[illegible]	-10.11	..
-do- Fixed Cap	425.67	448.08	- 2.67	..
-do- Fixed Inv	648.61	682.75	- 3.60	...
-do- Index Cap	209.97	221.03	- 0.91	...
-do- Index Inv	319.84	336.79	- 1.15	..
-do- Mngd Cap	643.99	677.89	- 2.66	..
-do- Mngd Inv	981.26	[illegible]	- 3.35	..
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (9) ‡	831.80	...	+15.68	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	102.87	...	+ 1.43	.
Prime Managed	449.90	473.60	- 1.30	..
Prime UK Equity	551.11	580.20	- 3.10	.
Prime Intl Equity	333.10	350.70	+ 1.90	...
Prime Property	256.10	269.60	+ 0.30	.
Prime Fxd Int	254.20	267.60	- 1.30	...
Prime Index-Lnk	181.90	191.50	- 0.40	..
Prime Cash	214.90	226.30	+ 0.10	
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN				
01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1225.50	1290.00	- 4.40	...
Equity II	1775.20	1868.60	- 5.00	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ.				
01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	103.10	...	+ 0.10	...
Secure (2) ‡	102.10	...	- 0.10	.
Managed (3) ‡	107.40	...	+ 0.20	...
Equity Mngd (3) ‡	106.60	...	+ 0.30	...
Adventurous (3) ‡	106.60	...	+ 0.50	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bristol & West (2) ‡	102.50	...	+ 0.10	...
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	100.90	...	+ 0.10	...
Secure (2) ‡	100.90	...	+ 0.20	...
Managed (2) ‡	102.70	...	+ 0.20	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	103.00	...	+ 0.30	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	103.90	...	+ 0.60	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	100.60	...	+ 0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	326.60	338.40	+19.40	2.71
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH				
01722 413366				
Managed	344.30	362.50	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	460.50	484.80	- 1.00	...
Stewardship	400.60	421.70	+ 1.90	...
Overseas Equity	326.10	343.30	+ 2.60	...
North American	177.60	187.00	+ 2.70	...
Pacific Basin	184.00	193.70	+ 2.30	...
European	264.20	278.20	- 0.30	..
Property	183.90	193.60	- 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	261.10	274.90	- 1.00	...
Index Linked	180.50	190.00	- 0.20	...
Cash	209.80	220.90	+ 0.10	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	593.00	624.20	- 3.40	...
Managed	768.20	808.60	- 0.10	...
Deposit	357.00	375.70	+ 0.30	...
Property	475.10	500.10	- 4.50	...
American	499.60	525.80	+ 7.40	...
Australian	593.00	624.20	+ 7.60	...
European	640.00	673.60	- 1.00	...
Income Acc	835.20	879.10	- 2.10	...
-do- Dist	477.80	503.00	- 1.60	4.91
International	352.00	370.50	+ 2.70	...
Japan Smaller	467.20	491.70	- 2.80	..
Singapore & Mal	455.60	479.50	+ 8.80	...
Smaller Cos	460.30	484.50	+ 1.00	...
Tokyo Fund	686.00	722.10	- 1.60	...
UK Equity	641.90	675.60	- 2.70	...
CCM Vangd Mg	846.40	890.90	+ 3.20	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	351.20	369.70	+ 6.30	...
GT Plan Wwide	529.30	557.20	- 2.10	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex				
CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	[illegible]	765.20	- 0.90	...
-do- Inv A	765.10	805.40	- 1.00	...
UK Equity	458.70	482.90	- 3.10	...
Gilt Plus	219.90	231.60	- 0.80	...
Managed	342.90	361.00	- 0.40	..
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	235.60	247.90	- 0.40	...
Unitised Profit	148.10	155.90	+ 0.20	...
UK Equity	326.40	343.50	- 1.60	...
Fixed Int	212.60	223.70	- 1.50	...
Index-Linked	176.70	185.90	- 0.80	...
Cash Deposit	181.60	191.00	+ 0.10	...
Property	181.50	191.00	+ 0.20	...
International	192.20	202.20	- 0.20	...
American	199.50	209.90	+ 3.40	...
Japan	247.20	260.10	- 1.90	...
Japan Smllr Cos	253.10	266.30	- 2.00	...
European	202.30	212.80	- 1.70	...
Pacific Fund	320.10	336.80	+ 5.90	...
Conv Life	142.70	150.10	+ 0.40	...
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	538.90	567.30	- 0.70	...
Managed Initial	350.20	368.60	- 0.70	...
Equity Ord	831.40	875.20	- 2.80	...
Equity Init	540.20	568.60	- 2.20	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	214.70	226.00	- 0.80	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	145.70	153.40	- 0.60	...
Oseas Equity Ord	431.30	454.00	- 1.10	...
Oseas Equity Init	280.30	294.90	+ 0.40	...
Property Ord	278.20	292.80	+ 0.30	...
Property Init	180.80	190.30	- 0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	309.70	326.00	- 1.60	...
Fixed Int Init	201.20	211.80	- 1.10	...
Deposit Ord	216.10	227.50	+ 0.20	...
Deposit Initial	140.40	147.80	...	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange, London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	830.50	865.10	...	...
Managed Initial	520.00	547.40	+ 2.10	...
-do- Acc	760.90	801.00	- 3.40	...
Equity Initial	795.70	837.60	+ 5.40	...
-do- Acc	1164.30	1225.60	- 8.40	...
Fixed Int Initial	474.90	499.90	- 3.20	...
-do- Acc	694.80	731.40	- 4.40	...
Intl Initial	512.40	539.30	+ 2.80	...
-do- Acc	749.70	789.10	+ 4.40	...
Nth Amer Initial	227.20	239.10	+ 4.40	...
-do- Acc	302.50	318.40	+ 6.00	...
Pacific Initial	255.20	268.60	+ 1.30	...
-do- Acc	336.60	354.30	+ 1.90	...
Property Initial	177.80	187.20	...	..
-do- Acc	259.80	273.40	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	167.20	176.00	- 0.50	...
-do- Acc	223.30	235.10	- 0.70	...
Deposit Initial	201.50	212.10	...	...
-do- Acc	294.90	310.40	+ 0.20	...
Euro Initial	118.40	124.60	- 0.40	...
-do- Acc	145.70	153.30	- 0.50	..
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	28.23	29.72	+ 0.15	...
Balanced	28.82	30.33	+ 0.08	...
Opportunity	29.42	30.97	+ 0.22	...
Deposit	24.67	25.97	+ 0.02	..
Pension Funds				
Foundation	28.99	30.51	+ 0.19	...
Balanced	29.37	30.92	+ 0.16	...
Opportunity	30.11	31.69	+ 0.32	...
Deposit	25.04	26.36	+ 0.03	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840080				
Managed	190.00	199.90	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	239.60	252.20	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	197.50	207.80	- 0.10	...
-do- Pens	231.80	244.00	- 0.50	...
International	167.20	176.00	+ 1.80	...
-do- Pens	185.40	195.10	+ 2.20	...
Deposit	145.10	152.70	+ 0.10	...
-do- Pens	174.40	183.50	+ 0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION				
3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA				
0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	392.50	417.60	+ 0.40	...
North America	433.40	461.10	+ 9.60	...
Far East Fund	636.10	670.00	+ 0.90	...
Global Managed	528.00	561.80	+ 4.70	...
Deposit Fund	239.00	251.60	+ 0.20	...
Prime Residential	136.20	143.40	...	...
European Fund	295.50	314.40	- 4.30	...
Fixed Interest	69.60	73.00	- 0.40	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon				
0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	593.30	627.50	+ 2.90	...
British Fund	610.90	646.50	- 2.80	...
International	626.10	662.60	+ 3.50	...
Dollar Fund	490.80	518.40	+13.30	...
Capital Fund	556.10	588.50	- 0.10	...
Income Fund	784.80	830.50	- 7.20	...
Property Series A	468.30	495.60	...	4.50
Property Units	774.70	819.50	...	...
Financial Fund	707.90	749.20	- 0.10	...
Managed Ser A	616.00	651.90	...	...
Managed Units	1107.10	1165.40	...	...
High Yield Fund	712.40	753.90	- 5.80	...
Money Series A	302.10	319.70	+ 0.30	...
Money Units	402.20	423.40	+ 0.50	...
Equity Fund	708.40	749.70	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	402.70	426.20	+ 0.20	...
Indexed Secs	200.90	212.60	- 0.30	...
European Fund	844.40	893.60	-11.10	...
Natural Res	346.60	366.80	+ 9.60	...
Far East Fund	722.90	765.00	+ 7.70	...
Smaller Cos	555.60	588.00	+ 4.80	...
Special Sits	561.00	593.70	-21.00	...
Man Currency	280.90	297.30	- 0.20	...
Japanese Tech	334.10	353.60	- 1.80	..
US Smaller Cos	350.90	371.40	+ 7.60	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	259.70	273.50	+ 0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	57.40	61.40	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	358.40	377.40	- 1.50	...
Gold	100.30	105.70	+ 3.90	...
Managed	686.90	723.20	- 0.50	...
Mngd Growth	221.00	232.80	+ 2.30	...
Mngd Opp	233.10	245.50	+ 2.70	...
Property	331.10	348.50	...	...
Residential Prop	105.50	111.20	...	...
TSB American	254.10	267.60	+ 8.10	...
TSB Brit Gwth	984.60	1040.80	- 4.70	...
TSB European	305.10	321.20	- 4.70	..
TSB Income	428.90	451.50	- 4.20	...
TSB Intl	480.50	505.90	+ 3.10	...
TSB Intl Inc	327.90	345.30	- 2.80	...
TSB Pacific	456.40	480.60	+ 7.00	...
TSB Prem Inc	278.20	290.70	- 0.20	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	648.70	682.80	- 0.40	...
Global Property	312.30	328.70	...	...
Global Fixed Int	568.30	598.20	+ 4.10	...
Global Equity	702.50	739.50	+ 0.10	..
Global Cash	223.70	235.50	+ 0.30	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE				
Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ				
01452 371371				
Property	504.70	531.20	+ 2.40	...
Managed	468.40	493.00	- 0.10	...
American	510.10	536.90	+12.30	...
UK Equity Fd	508.70	535.40	- 2.20	...
Japan	223.10	234.80	- 1.40	...
Index-Lnkd	196.90	207.20	- 0.80	...
High Yield	953.80	1003	- 3.00	...
Money	421.20	443.30	+ 0.10	...
International	448.90	472.50	+ 3.10	...
Henderson Active	236.40	248.80	+ 2.70	...
Perpetual Active	373.50	393.10	+ 5.50	...
Growth Acc	730.80	769.20	+ 0.10	.
Gilt Edged	469.50	494.20	- 0.10	...
European	170.90	179.80	- 2.90	...
Far East	236.90	249.30	+ 4.90	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE				
01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	193.30	203.50	+ 0.20	...
Brit Opps Int	162.10	170.70	- 0.30	...
-do- Acc	207.90	218.90	- 0.40	...
Cash Initial	169.50	178.50	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	301.50	317.40	+ 0.30	...
Equity Initial	735.70	774.50	+ 3.10	...
-do- Acc	1308.30	1377.20	- 5.70	...
Fixed Initial	367.00	386.40	- 1.20	...
-do- Acc	652.70	687.10	- 2.20	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	138.90	146.30	- 0.30	...
-do- Acc	210.80	221.90	- 0.60	...
Intl Initial	354.90	373.60	+ 0.70	...
-do- Acc	621.40	654.20	+ 1.40	...
Managed Initial	521.40	548.90	- 1.30	...
-do- Acc	927.30	976.20	- 2.20	...
Property Initial	220.40	232.00	+ 0.30	...
-do- Acc	392.00	412.70	+ 0.50	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB				
0181 902 8876				
Equity Units ‡	#145.62	...	- 0.55	...
Property Units ‡	#26.03	...	- 0.04	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	73.75	77.64	- 0.03	..
2nd Equity Acc	697.80	734.50	- 2.80	...
2nd High Inc Ac	670.70	706.00	- 3.40	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
2nd Property Acc	245.90	258.80	- 0.50	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	196.40	206.70	- 0.60	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	515.00	542.10	- 0.20	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	259.00	272.60	+ 0.50	...
2nd Deposit Acc	296.60	312.20	+ 0.10	...
2nd Gilt Acc	331.80	349.30	- 2.60	...
2nd Amer Acc	849.70	894.40	+27.20	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	276.10	290.70	+ 0.50	...
2nd Index Acc	219.50	231.10	+ 0.10	...
2nd Far East Acc	485.00	510.50	+ 3.90	...
2nd Global Acc	195.00	205.30	+ 1.90	...
2nd Euro Acc	176.00	185.30	- 2.80	...
2nd Japan Acc	194.90	205.20	- 0.50	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	178.50	187.90	- 0.80	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	138.60	145.90	- 0.40	...
LONDON LIFE				
100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA				
0117 9279179				
Equity ‡	992.10	...	- 0.50	...
Fixed Interest ‡	468.80	...	- 2.00	...
Property ‡	431.00	...	+ 0.60	...
Deposit ‡	306.80	...	+ 0.30	...
Mixed ‡	662.10	...	- 0.50	...
Indexed Stock ‡	229.50	...	- 1.00	...
International ‡	335.10	...	+ 1.60	...
Equity A ‡	229.80	...	- 0.20	...
Fixed Int A ‡	207.70	...	- 0.90	...
Property A ‡	189.20	...	+ 0.30	...
Deposit A ‡	180.10	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed A ‡	217.30	...	+ 0.20	...
Index Stock A ‡	179.50	...	- 0.70	...
International A ‡	209.10	...	+ 1.20	...
Equity P ‡	832.20	...	- 0.80	...
Fixed Int P ‡	627.80	...	- 2.00	...
Property P ‡	336.70	...	+ 0.50	...
Deposit P ‡	366.00	...	+ 0.40	...
Mixed P ‡	616.20	...	+ 0.60	...
Index Stock P ‡	263.70	...	- 1.20	...
International P ‡	399.50	...	+ 2.80	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 283456				
Inv Trust Cap ‡	616.60	...	+ 5.20	...
-do- Acc ‡	1086.10	...	+10.00	...
Property Cap ‡	142.60	...	- 0.20	...
-do- Acc ‡	240.80	...	- 0.10	...
Fxd Interest Cap ‡	204.30	...	- 1.30	...
-do- Acc ‡	347.20	...	- 1.90	...
Equity Cap ‡	347.60	...	- 1.00	...
-do- Acc ‡	594.80	...	- 1.20	...
Internatl Cap ‡	250.80	...	+ 3.30	...
-do- Acc ‡	428.40	...	+ 6.10	...
Gtd Deposit Cap ‡	163.00	...	...	...
-do- Acc ‡	274.20	...	+ 0.10	7.20
Flexible Cap ‡	368.60	...	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	634.00	...	+ 1.20	...
Moneymaker Fd ‡	491.10	...	+ 0.50	...
Capital Growth ‡	1966.00	...	+ 1.30	...
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB				
01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	520.60	546.80	+ 8.10	...
Amer Rec Bond	568.80	597.30	+13.50	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	271.10	284.70	+ 5.50	...
Australasia Bd	262.90	276.10	+ 5.40	...
Commodity Bond	387.70	407.20	+11.70	...
Deposit Bond Acc	377.50	396.50	+ 0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	1668.00	1751.50	-14.00	...
European Bd Acc	438.20	460.20	- 4.20	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	823.60	864.80	- 4.00	...
Far East Bd Acc	348.70	366.30	+ 2.60	...
Gilt Bond Acc	481.30	505.50	- 4.30	...
Gold Bond Acc	206.70	217.20	+17.40	...
High Yield Bond	366.20	384.70	- 2.20	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	222.70	233.90	- 1.00	...
International Bd	856.80	899.70	+ 6.20	...
Japan Bond Acc	254.30	267.20	- 3.90	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	250.10	262.70	- 0.40	...
Managed Bonds	980.50	1029.70	+19.20	...
Prop Bond Acc	366.70	385.10	+ 1.70	...
Rec Bond Acc	841.30	883.50	- 1.50	...
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	250.50	263.70	- 0.90	...
UK Equity Acc	367.80	387.20	- 0.40	...
Special Sits	101.90	107.30	...	...
Special Sits Acc	149.70	157.60	+ 0.10	...
North American	215.80	227.20	+ 3.60	...
N American Acc	316.90	333.60	+ 5.40	...
Pacific Basin	386.20	406.60	+ 3.80	...
Pacific Basin Acc	567.20	597.10	+ 6.00	...
Fixed Interest	299.40	315.20	- 1.20	...
Fixed Interest Acc	440.20	463.40	- 1.30	...
Property	179.10	188.60	...	...
Property Acc	263.30	277.20	+ 0.20	...
Deposit	153.60	161.70	...	...
Deposit Acc	225.90	237.80	+ 0.20	...
Managed	284.50	299.50	- 0.10	...
Managed Acc	385.00	405.30	...	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH				
0117 9266 366				
Property	425.70	448.10	+ 0.40	...
UK Equity	410.50	432.10	- 1.80	...
Gilt Edged	637.20	670.70	- 2.60	...
Interest Fund	412.20	433.90	- 0.40	...
Managed Fd	541.90	570.40	+ 3.30	...
Intl Equity	661.10	696.00	+ 7.50	...
North American	250.00	263.10	+ 4.20	...
Far East	503.00	529.40	+ 7.40	...
Intl Currency	266.80	280.80	+ 0.60	...
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH				
0171 623 4200				
Managed	556.70	586.00	+ 0.40	...
UK Equity	710.40	747.70	- 1.60	...
Overseas Equity	553.10	582.20	+ 3.10	..
Americas	502.00	528.40	+ 4.80	...
Far East	642.80	676.60	+12.00	...
Property	218.30	229.70	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	428.10	450.60	- 2.00	...
Indexed Gilt	248.80	261.80	- 1.20	...
Deposit	226.80	238.70	+ 0.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP				
01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1631.20	1717.10	- 1.50	...
Equity Fund	3584.90	3773.60	-13.90	...
Property Fd	600.00	631.60	+ 1.20	...
Fixed Int Fd	659.40	694.10	- 4.30	...
Deposit Fund	366.90	386.20	+ 0.30	...
Intl Fund	280.80	295.60	+ 1.60	...
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA				
01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	332.90	351.20	- 1.40	...
Fxd Interest Acc	263.90	278.40	- 2.60	...
International Acc	272.80	287.80	+ 1.00	...
Managed Acc	242.60	256.00	- 0.10	...
Property Acc	218.00	230.00	+ 0.50	...
Money Acc	161.70	170.60	+ 0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	249.70	263.40	+ 3.30	...
Japan Equity Acc	127.90	135.00	+ 0.40	...
N Amer Acc	172.20	181.70	+ 5.10	...
Pacific Acc	173.40	183.00	+ 2.50	...
European Acc	187.00	197.30	- 7.40	...
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	144.80	152.50	+ 0.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	324.90	342.00	+ 0.20	...
Inv Equity	1369.90	1442.10	- 5.70	...
Inv Managed	959.50	1010.10	- 0.90	...
Ret Managed	1093.20	1150.80	- 0.30	...
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH				
0171 405 9222				
Managed	393.30	409.70	+ 4.90	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP				
0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	916.20	964.50	- 3.00	...
Equity Fund	1762.50	1855.30	-11.00	...
Intl Fund	735.00	773.70	+ 1.80	...
Fixed Interest	619.40	652.10	- 2.90	...
Property Fund	489.00	514.80	...	...
Cash Fund	382.00	402.20	+ 0.30	...
Pacific Basin	417.00	439.00	+ 3.30	...
N American Fd	337.30	355.10	+ 6.80	...
Euro Fund	315.40	332.00	- 3.30	...
Balanced Fund	179.30	188.80	- 0.60	...
Strategic Fund	192.60	202.80	- 0.10	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) ‡	814.80	...	...	...
-do- Acc	475.80	500.80	...	...
Op Prop	501.80	528.20	- 1.60	...
Op Equity	1143.80	1203.90	+ 7.90	...
Op High Yield	648	682.10	- 2.50	...
Op Managed	928.10	976.90	+ 7.20	...
Op Deposit	410.80	432.40	+ 0.40	...
Inc Gth	338.60	356.40	- 1.50	...
Japan Smlr	255.90	269.30	- 4.40	...
Managed Gth	306.80	322.90	- 7.40	...
Gilt	89	93.60	- 0.20	...
British	432.10	454.80	- 2.90	...
Global Bond	133.40	140.40	- 0.40	...
Global Inc & Gth	188.20	198.10	-12.80	...
Gold Share	100.60	105.80	+ 3.40	...
High Income	327	344.20	- 1.20	...
Income	496	522	+ 1.30	...
Japan	446.90	470.40	- 2.90	...
UK Smlr Cos	395.30	416	-16.20	...
Mngd Growth	520.90	548.30	- 0.10	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS				
0151 239 3000				
Royal Shield Fd	1105.80	1170.10	+ 3.50	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	436.60	459.50	+ 1.30	...
Equity Fund	624.40	657.20	+ 3.40	...
Property Fund	334.50	352	- 2.10	...
International	545.40	574	+ 3.30	...
Pacific Basin	298.70	314.40	+ 2.30	...
United States	324.20	341.20	+ 3.00	...
Gilt Fund	406.20	427.50	- 0.10	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	853.40	903.10	+ 0.20	2.23
Deposit Fund (2)	392.60	415.50	+ 0.50	6.60
Gilt Fund	575.70	609.30	- 2.00	7.82
Global Equity Fd	265.20	280.70	+ 3.40	...
Property Fund (46)	116.70	123.50	...	7.21
AG Bond Fund	164.00	173.60	- 2.80	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow				
0141 248 2323				
Equity	680.10	715.90	- 1.30	...
Fixed Interest	408.80	430.40	- 2.30	...
Index-Linked	209.70	220.80	- 0.50	...
International	517.80	545.10	+ 4.20	...
Property	302.90	318.90	+ 0.40	...
Cash	240.70	253.40	+ 0.20	...
Managed	530.00	557.90	+ 0.60	...
Cap Gtned Bd	132.00	139.00	- 0.30	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF				
0131 556 9101				
Cash	189.929	199.926	+ 0.14	...
Index-Linked	174.60	183.90	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	201.30	212.00	- 0.20	...
Mixed	292.90	308.40	+ 0.60	...
UK Equity	278.60	293.40	- 0.20	...
International	293.00	309.20	+ 1.30	...
American	321.80	338.90	+ 4.40	...
Japan	240.50	253.30	- 3.40	...
European	300.00	316.90	...	...
Pacific	389.40	410.00	+ 6.60	...
Technology	475.10	500.20	-13.50	...
Frgn Bd/Crcy	258.90	272.60	+ 0.40	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE				
0131 225 2211				
Property	226.00	238.00	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	407.50	429.00	- 1.60	...
American	307.70	324.00	+ 6.70	...
Pacific	392.00	412.80	+ 2.90	...
European	546.40	575.30	+ 0.10	...
International	361.80	381.00	- 3.40	...
Fixed Interest	259.40	273.20	- 2.00	...
Index Linked	210.90	222.10	- 1.40	...
Deposit	204.10	215.00	+ 0.20	...
Managed	326.10	343.40	+ 0.10	...
Worldwide	137.70	145.00	- 0.20	...
Pen Worldwide	149.60	157.60	+ 0.30	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN				
0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1686.70	1945.10	...	...
Safety Fund	259.20	272.90	- 1.50	...
Growth Fund	263.90	277.80	+ 0.30	...
Opportunity Fd	264.80	278.80	+ 0.20	...
Cash Fund	182.00	191.60	+ 0.10	...
European Fund	390.10	410.70	- 4.60	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	221.20	232.90	- 1.90	...
Index-Linked Fd	193.00	203.20	- 1.20	...
International Fd	322.10	339.10	+ 1.20	...
North American	284.60	299.60	+ 7.20	...
Property Fund	129.60	136.50	- 0.10	...
UK Equity	280.40	295.20	- 0.80	...
UK Smaller	281.80	296.70	+ 6.70	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA				
0131 556 9181				
Mixed	304.80	320.90	+ 0.90	...
Equity	322.40	339.50	+ 1.10	...
International	301.40	317.40	+ 2.60	...
Property	233.90	246.20	- 0.10	...
Fixed Interest	241.30	254.10	+ 0.80	...
Index Linked	193.70	204.00	- 0.40	...
Cash	194.60	205.00	+ 0.20	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	905.50	953.40	+ 3.40	...
Cash Fund	353.90	373.00	+ 0.40	...
Property Fund	298.30	314.40	+ 0.40	...
Equity Fund	1031.70	1097.60	+ 7.30	...
Fxd Interest Fund	508.70	536.10	- 2.40	...
International	432.70	460.40	+ 3.90	...
High Income	805.10	856.50	- 0.10	...
Far East	628.50	668.70	+ 4.50	...
North American	679.40	722.80	+18.60	...
Special Sits	753.10	801.20	+10.90	...
Technology	972.70	1034.80	+50.60	...
Extra Income Fd	441.90	470.20	- 1.10	...
Gilt Fund	518.90	552.10	- 0.50	...
European	168.60	179.40	- 1.20	...
Adventurous Mg	262.90	276.80	+ 3.00	...
Secure Mgd	163.80	172.70	+ 0.10	...
Equity Inc Dist	129.20	136.20	- 0.30	4.31
Managed Dist	118.60	125.00	- 1.00	6.30
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU				
0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1101.20	1101.20	- 6.40	...
Inv Pol 2	997.90	1050.60	- 6.10	...
Inv Pol 3	948.40	998.40	- 5.90	...
Inv Cash	330.40	347.80	+ 0.30	...
Mixed Fund	514.40	541.50	- 5.00	...
Equity Fund	613.80	646.20	- 7.50	...
Property Fund	249.10	262.30	+ 0.20	...
International Fd	569.80	599.70	+ 0.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	416.60	438.60	- 3.70	...
Indexed Stock Fd	212.30	223.60	- 0.90	...
Cash Fund	238.80	251.40	+ 0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX				
01703 334411				
Managed Acc	433.50	456.30	+ 3.20	...
Equity Acc	527.60	555.30	+ 4.00	...
International Acc	383.50	403.60	+ 0.80	...
Property	230.10	242.20	- 2.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ				
0131 225 2552				
Cash	280.60	295.40	+ 0.20	...
Equity	1177.00	1239.00	+ 2.80	...
European	189.30	199.30	- 0.10	...
Far East	189.90	199.90	- 0.70	...
Fixed Interest	444.70	468.20	+ 0.40	...
Index Linked	226.90	238.90	- 0.10	...
International	695.40	732.00	- 0.70	...
Managed	810.70	853.40	+ 1.20	...
Nth American	180.80	190.40	+ 2.60	...
Property	375.80	395.60	+ 0.30	...
Pensions				
Cash	443.60	467.00	+ 0.40	...
Equity	1778.10	1871.70	+ 8.00	...
European	233.60	245.90	- 1.30	...
Far East	155.10	163.30	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	625.90	658.90	+ 0.80	...
Index Linked	318.10	334.90	+ 0.30	...
International	1013.60	1067.00	+ 2.70	...
Managed	1186.10	1248.80	+ 4.60	...
Nth American	235.30	247.70	+ 5.40	...
Property	521.60	549.10	+ 0.60	...
Stock Exchange	268.70	282.90	+ 1.10	...
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex				
01403 232323				
Managed Fund	768.70	809.20	- 1.60	..
Equity Fund	1019.10	1072.80	- 2.90	...
Fixed Interest Fd	450.40	474.20	- 3.60	...
Index-Linked Fd	341.60	359.60	- 1.70	...
Property Fund	530.40	558.40	+ 3.30	...
International Fd	763.30	802.50	+ 1.30	...
N American Fd	325.00	342.20	+ 9.00	...
Far East Fund	267.40	281.50	+ 5.10	...
Deposit Fund	313.00	329.50	+ 0.30	...
Intnl Bd ‡	#104.20	...	+ 1.80	...
Worldwide Bond	178.30	187.70	- 0.90	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
European	188.80	198.80	- 1.70	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	770.30	810.90	+ 7.80	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	503.50	542.60	- 4.00	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	616.20	...	- 3.70	...
-do- Acc ‡	572.50	...	- 3.50	...
Agricultural Fd ‡	862.10	...	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc ‡	825.80	...	+ 0.50	..
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	460.50	...	- 1.20	...
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	484.70	...	- 1.40	...
Investment Fd ‡	410.80	...	- 0.80	...
Investment (A) ‡	390.60	...	- 0.70	...
Equity ‡	1491.00	...	- 4.10	...
Equity Acc ‡	1423.80	...	- 3.80	...
Money Fund ‡	501.70	...	+ 0.50	...
-do- Acc ‡	478.40	...	+ 0.40	...
Actuarial Fd ‡	675.90	...	- 1.30	...
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	423.10	...	- 3.20	...
-do- Acc ‡	423.10	...	- 3.20	..
Retire Annuity ‡	1283.00	...	...	...
Immed Annuity ‡	307.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life ‡	237.60	...	+ 0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ				
Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc ‡	1686.20	...	+23.70	...
Managed Acc ‡	951.00	...	+15.80	...
Equity Account ‡	1370.30	...	+24.60	...
Mngd Fund Acc	435.10	458.00	+ 7.60	...
Equity Fund Acc	599.10	630.60	+11.30	...
Prop Fund Acc	267.50	281.60	- 0.80	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	342.60	360.60	+ 5.70	...
Money Fund Acc	231.20	243.40	+ 0.30	...
Indx-Lnk Secs Ac	219.10	230.60	+ 1.70	...
Pers Pens Acct ‡	2174.30	...	+25.30	...
Pens Mngd Acct	1010.60	1063.80	+12.30	...
Pens Guarantee	275.80	290.40	+ 0.50	..
Pens Equity	390.70	411.20	+ 4.80	...
Pens Property	311.30	327.70	- 1.00	...
Pens Fixed Int	322.50	339.50	+ 0.70	...
Pens Intl	284.50	299.40	+ 6.00	...
Pens Money	251.40	264.70	+ 0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	211.40	222.50	+ 1.70	...
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL				
0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1009.40	1062.60	+11.60	...
Property Acc	330.30	347.70	+15.10	...
Equity Acc	1663.50	1751.10	+26.00	...
Fixed Int Acc	442.10	465.40	- 5.00	..
Cash Acc	324.30	341.40	+ 0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	465.70	490.30	+10.10	...
Japan Acc	309.90	326.30	- 2.40	...
Pacific Acc	417.40	439.40	+13.10	...
Far Eastern Acc	921.60	970.20	+13.60	...
International Acc	681.70	717.60	+ 7.00	...
Distribution Fund	291.70	307.10	+ 0.70	5.86
European	214.20	225.50	- 1.80	...
Deffrd Dist	186.20	196.10	- 0.40	...
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE				
01264 345678				
Managed Fund	322.70	339.70	+ 0.80	...
Property Fund	233.90	246.30	- 0.40	...
Fixed Interest Fd	246.90	260.00	- 0.70	..
Money Fund	209.80	220.90	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	421.40	443.60	+ 1.40	...
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire				
01952 292929				
Managed Bond	792.40	835.00	+ 6.00	..
Money Fund	332.20	349.70	- 0.10	...
Equity Fund	712.00	749.40	+10.90	...
Fixed Interest	310.00	326.30	+ 5.00	...
Property Fund	351.90	370.40	+ 6.10	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	680.00	716.50	+25.00	..
Income	842.90	888.20	+ 4.10	...
International Gth	700.80	738.50	+ 6.80	...
Capital Fund	700.00	737.60	+ 5.10	...
Recovery Fund	660.40	695.90	+ 2.20	...
Japan & General	275.40	290.20	- 0.60	...
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.89	19.88	+ 0.01	...
Bear	22.05	23.21	...	...
Owl	23.92	25.18	- 0.01	...
Bull	20.42	21.49	+ 0.10	...
Stag	21.22	22.34	+ 0.19	...
Gilt Edged	20.58	21.66	- 0.01	...
Deposit	16.44	17.31	+ 0.01	..
Pensions				
Squirrel	26.07	27.44	+ 0.03	...
Bear	31.25	32.89	+ 0.11	...
Owl	33.42	35.18	+ 0.11	...
Bull	26.99	28.41	+ 0.16	...
Stag	27.49	28.94	+ 0.30	...
Gilt Edged	26.30	27.68	- 0.01	...
Deposit	21.59	22.73	+ 0.03	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	666.58	...	+ 3.13	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	397.71	418.64	+ 0.76	...
N Amer Equity	340.63	358.56	+ 7.00	...
Far East Equity	407.22	428.65	+ 1.29	...
Fixed	325.89	343.04	- 0.18	..
Cash Deposit	214.24	225.52	+ 0.11	..
Property	148.11	155.91	- 1.91	...
Special Opp	399.63	420.66	+ 3.60	...
MAnaged	351.53	370.03	+ 1.71	...
Index-Linked Fd	204.07	214.81	+ 0.48	...
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	666.30	700.80	+ 6.90	..
Life Fxd Int Acc	401.40	422.50	- 6.60	...
Life Equity Acc	920.90	969.30	-23.50	...
Life Money Acc	312.40	328.80	- 1.30	..
Life Inv Tst Acc	842.10	888.40	-17.10	...
Life Intl Acc	532.00	559.90	-11.10	...
Life High Inc Acc	869.70	915.40	- 3.60	...
Life Property Acc	254.40	267.70	+ 5.00	...
Crown Brit Inv A	1410.60	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	816.60	859.50	+10.50	...

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Waiting for account to be settled is Mid Southern water torture

From L. R. Hobbs.

Sir, Have any of your readers come across the extraordinary policies employed by Mid Southern Water in settling accounts?

Recently, I sold my property in Bracknell and wrote to the company on November 7, 1995 to ask them to provide a final account. I had telephoned earlier that day, but was told a written letter was required (all other facilities seemed happy with the telephone — electricity, council tax, etc). The company sent me a final account on November 16, indicating that they owed me a small amount. Cheques arrived from elsewhere, but there was nothing from Mid Southern Water.

Eventually, on December 18, I telephoned to inquire about the moneys due to me. It transpired that I was required to write another letter to request release of the moneys. Nowhere did the final account indicate the need to thus write. Does the company assume people will guess what is required, or are they hoping people will forget about it? However, I wrote again on December 18, a letter received by the company on December 22. Still no moneys by January 4, so I telephoned again, twice.

All local and central office customer service managers were unavailable, but I was able to speak to the head of finance. He told me the policy of requiring customers to write again for their money was company policy following their auditors' request, but that he would ensure my problems were dealt with ASAP. I *am still waiting.*

I have learnt two things about Mid Southern Water which may be of service to other customers. First, that rendered accounts are not an occasion for payment — so, if the process works both ways, customers may presumably ignore the accounts they receive until the company writes a letter requesting release of the moneys due. Second, it is better to be in debt to, rather than in credit with, Mid Southern Water — you will wait forever for refunds.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE R. HOBBS,
Nether End Cottage,
Blacksmiths Loke,
Lound, Suffolk.

MARCEL THOMES/Sipa

Denial that comes with bankruptcy

From Mr G. Peake

Sir, In last Saturday's Weekend Money, there was an article by Karen Zagor about the prospect of the Duchess of York being declared bankrupt.

In the article, it was stated that "It is hard to imagine the Duchess of York ever being denied access to a bank account or credit card, even if her creditors do force her to declare bankruptcy". Surely, bankruptcy is supposed to mean this kind of denial?

Perhaps if the Duchess of York were still, or would revert to being, mere Sarah Ferguson, she, as a declared bankrupt, would have the same experience as "tens of thousands of ordinary people".

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY PEAKE,
113 Mottram Old Road,
Stalybridge,
Cheshire.

Not all loyal building society members are rewarded

From Dr M. Crawford

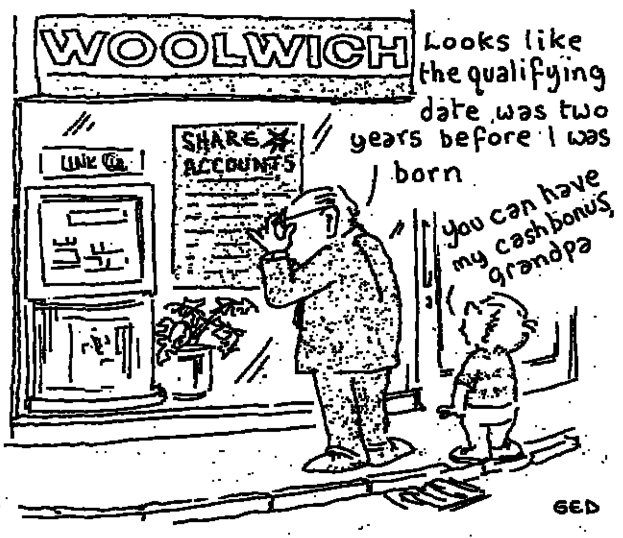
Sir, The current practice among building societies seeking to lose their mutual status seems to be to regard as significant those share account holding members who have £100 or more in the relevant account on a specified date. The date is selected in such a way as to make it impossible for speculators to qualify. The latest example is the Woolwich, which has selected December 31 as its qualifying date.

This practice can lead to what in my view is a serious inequity, as my wife's experience with the National & Provincial illustrates.

She has for several years had an account with an average balance well in excess of £500. She would be regarded as a two-year account holder under the proposed terms of merger with Abbey National, apart from the fact that, two days before what turned out to be the qualifying date for that merger, she withdrew sufficient money to take the account below £100. As a result, she has no more standing with the society than someone who opened an account the day before with £1. The account was well above the £100 level at the time the society confirmed its plans, and has been so ever since.

It is important that *bona fide* members of building societies likely to be seeking bank status realise that they have to be very prescient if they wish to benefit. The individual who opens many accounts of £101 in different societies will be better rewarded than the steady customer of any one society.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL CRAWFORD,
Honfleur,
50 Falcon Road,
Bingley,
West Yorkshire.


WOOLWICH
SHARE ACCOUNTS
LINK
Looks like the qualifying date was two years before I was born
you can have my cashbonus, grandpa
GED

Post waste for seller

From Mr L. Oakley

Sir, Recently, with the market at its peak, I decided to sell some of the units I held in a well-known fund.

On Monday morning, I posted my instructions in the first class envelope provided. I received confirmation the next Saturday, showing the dealing date as Friday. By then, the market had suffered a significant correction. I have suggested to the managers that they appear to go slow on instructions to sell on a falling market.

I will, in future, conduct dealings by phone.

Yours sincerely,
LIONEL OAKLEY,
6 Maidment Crescent,
Witham, Essex.

Bank's change of heart follows complaint

From C. Barry

Sir, On September 9, last year, you printed an article on my complaint against Lloyds Bank which had dramatically increased the fees on its do-it-yourself Pep, changing its charging basis from a flat fee of £20 to a ½ per cent of the total Pep value.

I am pleased to report that I have now been advised by the bank that it has revised its new charging structure to ½ per cent — minimum £20, maximum £50 per annum — regardless of the value of the Pep. The article undoubtedly encouraged a major bank to do a U-turn on its charges. I think that this change of heart should be brought to the attention of your readers.

Yours truly,
C. BARRY,
87 Highwood Gardens,
Clayhall,
Ilford, Essex.

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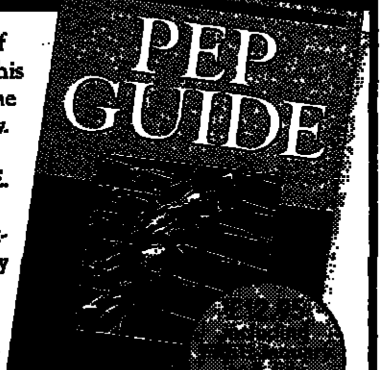

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That means if you invested the maximum of £6,000 now in our Extra Income PEP your money could earn £446 in just one year. But check the average interest rate now paid by the three building society deposit accounts quoted below: you could only expect to make £276. After tax (at the basic rate), you're left with just £206.

CHECK THESE NEW RATES*

	GROSS INTEREST RATE	AFTER BASIC RATE TAX	AFTER HIGHER RATE TAX
Nationwide	4.7%	3.5%	2.1%
Woolwich	4.6%	3.4%	2.1%
Halifax	4.5%	3.3%	2.0%
Allied Dunbar Extra Income PEP	7.4%	7.4%	7.4%

With all corporate bond PEP's, the value of your investment and income from it can fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. The above building society information refers to interest rates for deposits of £10,000 - £24,999 held in 90 day accounts.

So far, so good. But watch out – with some other corporate bond PEPs you'll find that, even though the taxman won't be eating into your income, the high charges of the PEP provider may well be.

Our* charges are exceptionally low, which means that the money in your Allied Dunbar Extra Income PEP will be working very hard – *for you.

Of course, you won't want to start moving your hard-earned savings anywhere new until you know a lot more about what you're getting into. We've compiled a detailed information pack on the Allied Dunbar Extra Income PEP to help you make an informed decision. If you think it's about time your money started working a little harder, phone us now on 0800 888 666 for your free pack and application form.

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63B

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ALLIED DUNBAR

*All these rates are variable and therefore will change over time. They are correct at the time of going to press. The projected total yield of 7.4% is the current anticipated annual level of income you may receive if the underlying investments are held to maturity. This rate has been calculated in accordance with guidelines set down by The Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds (AUTIF). The value of units, as well as the income they produce, can fall as well as rise. Allied Dunbar Unit Trusts plc is a member of the Allied Dunbar Marketing Group. It is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Allied Dunbar Unit Trusts plc. Registered in England number 265888. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Company's registered office at Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL. The tax position of personal equity plans depends on individual circumstances and the Law and Inland Revenue Practice which are, of course, subject to change. This product is only available in mainland UK. For your security, all telephone calls to Allied Dunbar (on the above number) will be recorded.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Ireland Amer	200.30	211.90	+ 3.60	0.21
Ireland Equity	275.10	292.60	− 2.10	1.98
Ireland Euro	252.40	266.80		1.15
Ireland Expt Bd	131.10	135.80	+ 2.80	5.14
Ireland Gilt	77.72	80.12	− 0.29	4.75
Ireland Japan	180.80	191.10	− 1.30	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 558 291				
General Acc	630.00	670.30	− 5.60	2.53
General Inc	541.30	576.50	− 4.80	2.53
UK Growth Acc	426.30	453.60	− 3.10	2.73
UK Growth Inc	284.00	302.20	− 2.10	2.73
Higher Inc Acc	780.20	830.10	− 6.30	4.09
Higher Inc Inc	434.20	462.00	− 3.40	4.09
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	208.80	220.70	− 1.00	5.47
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	98.08	101.40	− 0.50	5.47
Nth America	342.70	364.80	+ 13.20	
Europe	328.50	349.50	− 4.40	0.60
Brit Expell	86.02	91.45	+ 0.22	2.86
Brit Fedrelle Acc	113.70	121.00	− 0.60	4.66
Brit Fedrelle Inc	79.80	84.09	− 0.39	4.66
Global Opps	98.69	105.30	+ 0.80	0.19
Balanced Acc	61.94	65.90	− 0.23	2.73
Balanced Inc	59.28	63.06	− 0.23	2.73
Japan Acc	48.09	51.16	− 0.35	
Pac Basin Acc	420.60	447.50	+ 8.40	0.79
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilt & Fixed Int	133.20	141.30†	− 0.50	7.08
High Inc Equity	178.40	190.80†	− 0.50	4.41
Worldwide Bond	297.90	315.90	− 0.16	4.43
American Growth	344.50	368.20†	+ 7.50	0.59
Asian Pacific	348.50	372.70	+ 8.30	0.11
Assets & Earnings	292.70	311.40	− 0.90	2.34
Euro Capital Acc	166.70	177.70	− 1.20	0.59
Extra Inc	44.56	47.39†	− 0.12	8.48
General	271.80	289.10	− 0.28	2.88
Global Opps	63.11	67.14	+ 0.80	0.45
Japan	128.70	137.80	− 0.70	
Managed Inc	48.04	51.11†	− 0.13	4.55
Worldtrust	161.20	172.40	+ 0.50	1.42
US Emerging Cos	179.80	191.30	+ 10.60	
Ethical	77.42	82.36	+ 1.23	2.46
International	134.50	143.10	+ 1.00	0.71
Dividend & Growth	66.35	70.58†	− 0.17	4.35
Global Gwth & Sec	71.51	76.41	+ 0.09	2.46
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2028.00	2108.00	+ 26.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	56.92	59.11	+ 1.70	0.52
Cash	50.41	50.41†	+ 0.06	5.89
Emerging Mkts	72.58	76.92	+ 1.09	0.04
European	132.30	137.50	− 0.98	
Exempt	1018.80	1086.40†	+ 2.99	1.71
Extra Income #	48.27	51.60†	− 0.16	6.56
Far East Emg Eco	131.20	137.80	+ 3.00	0.45
Fixed Interest #	24.15	25.12	+ 0.02	9.35
Fund Inv Tst	162.30	170.46†	+ 0.90	9.13
Japan	190.90	198.60	− 1.09	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	97.32	103.82†	+ 0.79	2.47
American Portfolio	115.01	122.10	+ 1.29	0.94
European Portfolio	116.57	124.35	+ 0.43	0.47
High Income	52.80	52.99	− 0.08	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	70.85	75.31†	− 0.23	
Pacific Portfolio	161.10	173.23	+ 2.47	1.38
UK Inc & Growth	91.74	98.87	+ 1.10	2.81
Utility & Bond	57.92	58.59	− 0.28	6.54
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	741.33	752.53	+ 13.19	4.28
Fxd Int Sec	159.76	160.49	+ 1.21	8.92
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	735.84	748.96	+ 7.87	4.34
Investment Acc	1328.81	1333.31	+ 35.06	...
Fixed Int Inc	129.29	129.81	+ 0.48	8.86
Fixed Int Acc	219.58	220.07	+ 0.62	..
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	97.11	102.40	+ 1.47	2.90
Beck Bio-Tech	50.31	54.24†	+ 1.86	..
Accum Ethical Tst	171.14	179.71†	+ 1.80	0.62
City Fin Assets	77.77	81.67	+ 1.57	2.04
City Fin America	112.27	117.89	+ 3.60	...
City Fin Intl	91.80	96.40	− 0.04	0.83
City Fin Japan	152.71	160.36†	− 2.26	
Friars Hse Cap	302.03	327.27†	+ 6.37	2.23
Friars Hse Inc	200.06	212.83	+ 3.23	4.17
Buckley Wrld Gth	140.68	149.19	+ 5.94	
Fairmead Cap Gth	148.30	156.00	+ 2.27	
Fairmount Intl	159.30	167.68	+ 2.37	
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	56.82	59.67†	+ 0.47	1.67
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	59.30	62.92	+ 1.21	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	74.83	79.81	+ 2.34	
Dragon Growth	75.43	80.67	+ 2.22	0.53
Equity High Inc	89.86	95.60	− 0.84	4.02
-do- Accum	125.62	133.64	− 1.19	4.02
Extra Income Inc	26.60	28.22†	− 0.11	7.08
Extra Income Acc	28.22	29.72	− 0.12	7.88
European Gwth	59.55	63.18	− 0.49	1.04
Evergreen	29.92	32.00	+ 0.08	
General Equity	97.13	103.06	− 0.84	2.65
Japan Growth	53.20	56.60	− 0.58	
Pacific Gwth	58.50	62.23	− 0.16	2.58
Pvt Sm Cos Inc	34.65	36.86	+ 0.26	1.51
-do- Accum	36.49	38.82	+ 0.30	1.51
Retirement Inc #	27.92	29.70	− 0.19	5.62
Special Sits	44.26	47.07	+ 0.29	2.04
UK & Overseas	57.02	60.50	+ 0.31	0.72
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 808 000				
Capital	77.53	80.76	− 0.11	1.88
Balanced	67.09	69.88	− 0.26	4.02
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc	101.00	108.60	− 0.20	4.00
Sector Value Gwth	101.30	108.90	− 0.20	2.25
Hy 5 Europe	97.31	102.00	− 0.10	2.45
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	214.10	227.70	− 4.00	
Income #	193.11	205.43†	+ 1.34	4.16
UK Growth	75.61	80.64†	+ 0.74	0.43
International	84.66	90.07†	+ 0.34	0.87
Ecology	95.74	101.85	+ 0.72	1.06
European	152.01	161.71	+ 0.58	
Far Eastern	320.30	340.30	− 0.10	

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Special Sits Growth	24.85	26.43	+ 0.10	2.16
UK Growth	427.15	454.41	+ 1.21	2.71
-do- Accum	572.51	609.05	+ 1.61	2.71
NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1451.90	1486.10	+ 12.80	2.99
Income #	1049.50	1058.70†	− 2.70	4.00
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4342				
Maldon General	158.70	163.00	.	3.71

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7364				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	102.00	105.58†	− 0.40	7.29
Gilt Yield	120.40	127.10†	− 0.00	6.68
Global Income	233.00	247.90	+ 0.50	3.49
High Yield	147.70	157.10†	− 1.10	5.70
-do- Accum	470.20	500.20†	− 3.20	5.70
Smlr Cos Dir	57.77	61.46	+ 0.32	2.79
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smlr Cos	134.10	142.70†	+ 4.60	
Asian Growth	361.90	385.00	+ 3.50	0.21
-do- Accum	425.30	452.40	+ 4.00	0.21
North American	100.50	106.90†	+ 2.20	0.25
European Special	119.40	127.08	− 0.80	0.18

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 066				
M & S Inc Pfolio	170.20	179.20†	− 0.40	2.11
-do- Accum	199.70	210.30†	− 0.50	2.11
UK Sel Pfolio	148.20	156.00†	− 1.00	2.51
-do- Accum	176.10	185.40†	− 1.20	2.51
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	78.62	81.51	+ 0.62	3.48
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4848				
Intl Income	82.59	87.67†	+ 0.93	3.91
European	97.01	103.00	− 0.10	0.80

هكذا من الأصل

Losses wiped out at close

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BANKS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3000¼	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2987½	− 46¾	4.3	11.2
663	413	Abbey Nat	632	− 5	3.8	12.7
385	250	Allied Irish	379	− 3	3.8	11.0
324	195	Aus New Z	324	+ 4	5.0	
4425	2531¼	Bank America	4212½	+ 68¾	...	...
316	191½	Bank Scotland	311½	+ 2	2.5	13.8
812½	557½	Barclays	787½	+ 2½	3.6	10.7
488	288	Bk of Ireland	482	− 5	3.5	9.7
525	418	Cater Allen	474		7.9	7.8
4718¾	2450	Citicorp	4681¼	+ 87½		
340½	218¼	Close Bros	338		3.2	15.0
£162½	£120¾	Commerzbk	£151½	+ 9¾	3.5	.
1375	893¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1240¾	+ 31½	0.4	.
3231¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3178¾	+ 25	2.3	..
881¼	568¾	Espirito Santo	725	+ 12½	5.1	9.4
1811	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1478¼	+ 36¾	0.4	
490	285	Gerrard Nat	470		6.0	15.2
253	180	Hambros	193	− 2	4.7	
1106	589	HSBC	1087½	+ 1½	3.2	14.3
1085	578	HSBC HK	1076	+ 3	3.3	14.0
421	238	Irish Perm	421		2.9	9.7
463	353	Joseph (L)	453		5.2	15.6
152	85	King Shaxson	146	+ 1	7.7	11.3
350	308	Lloyds TSB	343½	+ 6½		
617	479	Nat Aust Bk	617	+ 7	6.6	8.4
697	454	Nat West	664	− 3	4.3	10.3
67	44	Rea Brothers	66		1.9	26.0
639½	373½	Ryl Bk Scott	591	+ 2	3.4	13.4
1478	906¾	Schroders	1295		1.4	18.4
1180	823½	Schroders N/V	1028		1.7	14.6
111	81	Singer & Fried	103½	+ ½	4.5	10.7
662½	246	Stand Chart	638	+ 2	1.6	16.0
121	70	Union	98		3.8	
£151¼	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£150¾	− 106¼	2.0	
303	211	Westpac	303	+ 3	4.5	
295	200	Wintrust	270		5.5	15.2

BREWERIES

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
279	143	Accol Hldgs	279			0.6
742	487	Bass†	726	− 2	3.9	16.7
487	239	Boddington	481		2.4	24.7
192	137	Burtonwd Brwt	171		3.9	16.5
206	137	Eldridge P A†	206	+ 3	2.8	
433	335	Fullr Sm 'A'	415	+ 1	2.8	16.4
614	402	Greenalls Gp	603	− 2	3.0	16.1
658	468	Greene Kingt	611		2.9	15.0
357	340	Hardy Hansn	322		4.0	11.8
160	150	Heavitree	155		4.5	10.9
3425	3040	Hall J	3102		2.2	16.6
347	219	Mansfield	324	− 1	2.1	16.3

DISTRIBUTORS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	87	ABI Leis	87½	+ ½	6.2	9.0
585	430	Adam & Harvey	443		5.5	5.8
21	13	Alexanders†	16		2.3	
113	88	Appleyard	106	+ 1	7.1	11.4
4¾	3½	Ass Br Eng	3½		2.1	...
623	505	BSS Group	555		4.4	15.9
39	31	Bandt	37			...
24½	15½	Beaumy Powert	16		9.8	11.4
28	18	Bogod 'A'†	28		3.5	8.8
483	345	Brammer	448	+ 2	3.8	17.2
21	10½	Bridgend Gp	20		1.2	
96	76	Brit Fittings	84	...	4.8	12.7
270	215	Caffyns	245		5.9	16.9
88	54	Central Mtr	75		0.8	
94	70	Charles Sidney	82		5.8	12.9
61	35	Cogh (DC)	57½	+ 2½	3.7	8.4
328	220	Cowie	328	+ 7	3.6	14.2
155	125	Dag Motors	126		7.1	10.4
598	503	Densons Bt	548		2.3	12.4
501	375½	Diploma	409		4.4	13.3
370	236	Electrocompnts	350	+ 2	2.1	23.6
314	153	Eurodc Elec	302	− 5	1.7	20.9
238	64	Eurodollart	104	− 3	9.4	6.3
120	87	European Mtr	103		6.3	8.8
448	280	Evans Halshaw	330	− 3	5.9	10.2
732	512	Farnell Elect	612	+ 3	2.0	17.8
72	48	Fife Indmar	66		6.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardiner	18¼		5.6	8.0
37	16	Glenchewton	36	+ 1½	1.0	...
108	61	Gowrings	88		3.2	14.8
236	148	Harris (Philip)	226		4.1	14.4
233	142	Headlam	215	− 1	2.4	18.8
573	258	Hewlys	572	− 1	2.2	21.3
137	81	Holders Tech	133		5.6	25.3
163	88	ISA Intl	157		1.3	17.2
430	300	Inchcape	264	+ 1	7.1	24.0
66	53	Jacks (Wm)	58		1.6	11.1
187	142	Kwik-Fit	177	+ 3	3.2	15.1
358¼	264½	Lex Service	327	− 2	5.5	17.4
195	139	Lookers	144		7.1	
22	9	Malaya Grp	11		5.5	14.8
9¼	5	Middlesex	8¼	+ ¼	0.7	20.1
71	36	Midstates	45	− 1		6.3
534	330	Norbain†	462	− 3	2.0	15.7
268	78	Northamber†	246	− 1	0.9	19.7
156	135	PCT	139	− 1	6.9	9.9
283	225	Pendragon	277		3.8	14.5
166	123	Perry Gp	148		6.5	11.2
146	126	Quicks Group	143	...	5.0	12.2
198	160	REA	187	+ 1	2.7	22.3
3¼	2¼	Reeco	2¾			
73	48	Ronson	56	+ 2	2.8	11.4
6½	2½	Ross Gp	2¼			..
63½	37½	SEP Indl	54		3.8	
17½	8½	Sabre	14			8.0
271	226	Time Products	264	+ 2	4.4	15.4

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
24	19½	Locker (T) A	21	..	2.8	16.1
45	29	ML Hldgs	39	.	4.2	12.7
39	19	MS Intl	30	..	2.5	...
239	137	Marg Bruce	227	.	2.8	11.3
476	378	McKechnie	455		4.5	13.6
96	51	Meggitt	94½		5.2	26.4
126	91¼	Metalrax	110		4.3	17.6
138	96	Metsec	98		4.0	20.7
825	487	Molins	805	+ 6	2.7	14.0
415	283	Morgan Cble	397	− 2	4.2	17.4
316	178	Morris Ashby†	264	+ 1	3.3	13.7

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
219	172	Bathurst	219	+ 1	2.4	
51½	28½	Baring Em En	51½	+ 1½	.	
375	300	Baring Tribne	374	.	2.3	
97½	84½	Br Assets	96½		5.9	...
101	83	Br Empire Sec	100½	..	1.2	..
42	25	Br Empire Wts	37	− 5	..	..
239	191	Br Inv	232		2.9	
101	66	Brazilian	71½	− ½	.	
268	211	Brunner	267	+ 2	2.8	
136	115	BZW Conv	131½	..	7.4	
508	318	Candover	488	− 2	3.2	.

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
93	72½	Murray Emg Ecot	92½	− ½	1.2	.
40	18	Murray Em Ec Wt	35		.	
65	54	Murray Euro	58½	.	0.7	..
17½	8	Murray En Wts	8½			.
388	308	Murray Incomet	385	+ 1	3.9	
395	296	Murray Intl†	394	.	4.0	
183	162½	Murray S/C DP	182	...	...	...
151	126	Murray S/C Cap	149	.		
81	72	Murray S/C Inc	72		19.8	.
3250	2900	Murray S/C Uts	3037½	..	0.5	...
500	376	Murray Small	498		1.2	

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
345	315	Stack (A&S)	325		5.4	12.6
281	174	Benham Gp	257	+ 1	6.0	15.8
285	196	Border TV	276	.	2.0	22.6
372	335	Bruskil†	372	..	4.5	18.2
401	242	BSkyB	396½	+ 5½	0.8	44.9
150	126	CIA Gp	135	+ 2	1.8	26.6
30	22	Caledonian Med	24		..	.
581	343	Capital Radio	569	+ 1	2.3	
1082	851	Carlton Comms	1051	+ 8	2.8	14.9
405	248	Chrysalis	405	..	0.9	..
100	81	City of Lon	87		7.7	10.3

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
121	78	Int Biotech	120	+ 2	1.0	
57	20	Int Wts	43	+ 2		
111	74	INVESCO Asia	109½			
72	51	INVESCO Blue	61		17.2	.
148	88	INVESCO Eng Int	147		0.7	
149	122	INVESCO Korea	131	..	.	
61½	49	INVESCO Tokyo	59½	+ ½		.
99	82	J Fry 2nd U	85		9.9	
94	76	J Fry Euro U	79	...	7.0	.
251	174	JF Fledg Jap	248	− ½	..	.
128	99	Jupiter Intl Grn	120	.	3.5	

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
235	197	Barr & Wall	223	+ 1	6.2	11.8
364	202	Bluebird Toys	357	+ 3	2.9	11.6
540	383	Boosey Hwks	530	..	1.4	29.1
76	42	Brk for the Bdr	69	.	3.0	18.0
3¼	1¼	Busl Walker	1½	.		..
46	33	Burdenst	33	..	7.3	
26½	5½	Castel Plc	8	+ 1	6.2	
97	70½	City Centre Rest	96	+ 1½	2.6	18.6
494	305	Compass Gp	478	+ 3	2.0	20.9
288	201	Eurocamp	251	.	5.3	11.8
250	118	Euro Disney	167	+ 6	..	.

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
283	194	Kiwi Chit	261½		2.6	.
128½	96½	Kiwi E Mkt	127½		.	
138	110	Kiwi End	137	..		
85½	73	Kiwi Euro Prvt	84	− ¼	3.3	
27½	21	Kiwi Euro Wts	23½			.
91	74	Kiwi H Inc	83		13.0	.
281	213	Kiwi O'seas	281	+ 1	1.6	
148	111	Kiwi Smlr	147		2.0	
605¼	427¼	Koto—Euro	557½	+ 4½	0.1	.
125½	71	Latin American	116	+ 1	..	..
985	718	Law Debenture	970	.	2.7	
102	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	101			
29½	26	Lloyds Sm Div	27		17.1	..

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
183	93	Euro Leisure	176	..		5.3
118½	56	First Choice	74	..	7.1	.
383	282	First Leisure	351	− 4	2.8	
406	224½	Forte	402	+ 6	3.0	24.5
175	133	Friendly Hotels	147½		4.8	17.3
738½	476	Granada†	714	+ 10	2.1	17.3
242	108	Grupe Chez Ger	238	...	1.3	28.3
38	16	Hi-Tec Sports	31	.	5.2	
168	96	Hornby	157½	.	4.0	13.5
243	134	Jurys Hotel†	231½	+ ½	3.4	14.8
26½	14¼	Kunick	24¼		3.1	
476	264	London Clubs†	460	− 8	3.8	18.4
187½	122	Ladbroke	169	− 1	4.4	51.3

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
724	100	M Currie Euro	123		0.4	.
109	93½	M Currie Japan	105½	+ 1	.	
156	119	M Currie Pac	155½	+ ½	0.1	..
227	182	Majedie	227		3.2	
57	41	Manakin	42			
289	241	Merchants†	286		5.2	
95	78½	Mercury Euro Pv	93¼		1.9	
32	23½	Mercury Eur Wt	26	− ½		
105	78	Mercury World	104½	+ 1	0.8	
31	14	Mercury Wld Wts	28	+ 1½		
594	482	Monks Inv Tst†	593		1.9	.
164	125	Morg Gren Inc	159	− 1	3.9	
63	49½	Morg Wts	60	− 1		
86	48	Morg Lat Amer	73½		.	
49	20	Morg Wts	28½			
130	104	Murray Ent†	119		2.5	.
34	17	Murray Ent Wts	23	.		

MEDIA

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
113	63	Toy Options†	99	+ 1	3.3	
269	161	VCI	269		2.0	18.4
156	100	Vardon	117	.	1.6	17.5
650	216	Wembley	333		..	
135	96	Zetters Gp	129	...	9.7	10.1
490	325	Abbott Mead	474		2.1	28.1
310	380	Adscene	269	..	3.7	14.9
46	22	Aegis Gp	44½	+ 1	..	17.8
7¼	1¾	Allied Radio	4			
15	9	BBB Design	15			
315	155	Barbour Index	289	− 1	4.0	35.3
10½	4½	Birkdale	8¼	+ ¼		.

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4589¾	3218¾	Schlumberger	4416¾	− 31¼	2.3	..
49	23	Scott Pickford	28	− 1	4.0	19.2
108½	87½	Seafield▲	91	+ 1	.	47.7
860	687	Shell	847½	+ 10½	4.2	18.8
4681¼	3234¾	Total	4390¾	− 3¾	3.6	15.8
14½	8½	Villiers Grp	13½			...
349	221	Woodside	330	− 2	1.2	..
58	24	XCL	24	..	...	..

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
123	78½	Aberdeen Tst	120	− 1	2.6	...
101	75	BWD	84		6.2	13.7
78	38	Berry Bch NM	40	.	8.1	11.3
285	148	Bistec Inv	294	− 1	.	

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BRITISH FUNDS

1995/6 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
109⅝	102⅞	Treas 15¼% 1996	102⅞	− ⅛	14.90	5.97
107⅛	102⅞	Exch 13¼% 1996	102⅞	− ⅛	12.98	6.09
104	103	Conv 10% 1996	103	− ⅛	9.70	5.91
101	97½	Treas 7% 1997	101⅛ †		6.91	6.05
109	106	Treas 13¼% 1997	106	− ⅛	12.39	5.88
105	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104	− ⅛	10.04	5.94
104	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	103	− ⅛	8.42	6.07
117	114	Exch 15% 1997	114	− ⅛	13.11	6.11
107	102	Exch 9¾% 1998	106	− ⅛	9.15	6.19
102	98	Treas 7¼% 1998	102	− ⅛	7.10	6.23
100	94	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100		6.74	6.66
117	114	Treas 14% 1998-01	116	− ⅛	12.04	6.33
124	120	Treas 15½% 1998	122	− ⅛	12.70	6.38
114	109	Exch 12% 1998	114	− ⅛	10.52	6.43
108	100	Treas 9½% 1999	108	− ⅛	8.80	6.48
116	111	Exch 12¼% 1999	116	− ⅛	10.56	6.55
112	105	Treas 10½% 1999	111	− ⅛	9.42	6.58
98	89	Treas 6% 1999	98	− ⅛	6.12	6.60
112	105	Conv 10¼% 1999	111	− ⅛	9.17	6.68
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
108	100	Conv 9% 2000	108	− ¼	8.33	6.71
105	96	Treas 8% 2000	105	− ⅛	7.62	6.74
124	117	Treas 13% 2000	123	− ⅛	10.52	6.74
114	106	Treas 10% 2001	113	− ⅛	8.84	6.82
101	90	Treas 7% 2001	100	− ⅛	6.98	6.92
114	105	Treas 9¾% 2002	113	− ⅛	8.58	7.10
105	94	Treas 8% 2003	104	− ⅛	7.65	7.17
117	105	Treas 10% 2003	115	− ⅛	8.83	7.23
119	110	Treas 11½% 2001-04	118	− ⅛	9.87	7.02
83	70	Fund 3½% 1999-04	82	− ⅛	4.22	6.12
114	103	Conv 9½% 2004	113	− ⅛	8.38	7.40
95	86	Treas 6¾% 2004	95	− ⅛	7.04	7.40
108	97	Treas 8½% 2005	107	− ⅛	7.92	7.43
114	103	Conv 9½% 2005	113	− ⅛	8.38	7.48
131	119	Treas 12½% 2003-05	129	− ⅛	9.62	7.37
101	94	Treas 7½% 2006	100	− ⅛	7.47	7.44
102	92	Treas 7¾% 2006	101	− ⅛	7.60	7.48
104	93	Treas 8% 2002-06	102	− ⅛	7.78	7.60
125	113	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	123	− ⅛	9.49	7.31
108	97	Treas 8½% 2007	107	− ⅛	7.91	7.53
138	126	Treas 13½% 2004-08	136	− ⅛	9.86	7.38
112	101	Treas 9% 2008	111	− ⅛	8.09	7.58
104½	94	Treas 8% 2009	103	− ⅛	7.77	7.64
LONGS (over 15 years)						
88	79	Treas 6¼% 2010	87	− ⅛	7.18	7.73
112	101	Conv 9% 2011	111	− ⅛	8.08	7.73
113	102	Treas 9% 2012	111	− ⅛	8.06	7.73
82	72	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81	− ⅛	6.75	7.47
103	93	Treas 8% 2013	102	− ⅛	7.81	7.75
101	91	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	100 †	− ⅛	7.76	7.76
104	93	Treas 8% 2015	102	− ⅛	7.81	7.76
111	100	Treas 8¾% 2017	109	− ⅛	7.97	7.81
141	127	Exch 12% 2013-17	139	− ⅛	8.60	7.85
UNDATED						
45	40	War Ln 3½%	44	− ⅛	7.79	.
32	28	Treas 2½%	31	− ⅛	7.88	
50	45	Consols 4%	50 †	− ⅛	7.96	.
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
215½	201	Treas IL 2% 1996	215½		.	2.11
113	108	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	113	− ⅛	1.20	2.46
180	169	Treas IL 2½% 2001	179	− ⅛	2.80	3.31
176	161	Treas IL 2½% 2003	175	− ⅛	3.01	3.46
116	108	Treas IL 4⅛% 2004	116	− ⅛	3.01	3.37
185	169	Treas IL 2% 2006	184	− ⅛	3.15	3.43
167	152	Treas IL 2½% 2009	166	− ⅛	3.26	3.49
173	157	Treas IL 2½% 2011	172	− ⅛	3.32	3.53
143	129	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141	− ⅛	3.37	3.55
152	137	Treas IL 2½% 2016	151 †	− ⅛	3.42	3.60
146	131	Treas IL 2½% 2020	144	− ⅛	3.48	3.63
122	109	Treas IL 2½% 2024	120	− ⅛	3.47	3.61
120	108	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	118	− ⅛	3.49	3.63

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
158	112	Brown Dolphin	153	.	4.9	15.9
744	625	Caledonia	713		3.0	22.1
2400	1900	Camellia	2000	.	2.3	18.4
27½	13	Carlisle	17½	..	1.8	18.6
225	142	Cattles	224		3.4	19.8
35	18	Christie	21	.		
102	61	EFT Group	94	.	2.4	17.0
775	653	EFM	716	− 1	4.2	16.8
106	91	Exco	100	+ 5	7.5	5.1
305	161	Gartmore	246	+ 4½	2.8	21.3
1272	963	Henderson Ad	1135	..	5.0	23.2
285	162½	Invesco	239	− 1	2.6	16.4
49	41	Investment Co.†	47		6.8	12.9
237	198	Ivory Sime†	225	.	4.1	17.4
248½	164½	Jardine Strat	226½	+ 1¼	4.3	7.0
144	85	Johnson Fry	109		4.6	7.8
242½	131	Lon Forfaiting	233		5.1	16.6
379	218	London Pacific	217	..	8.9	3.4
184	116	Lon Scot Bk	183	+ ½	3.5	..
182	130	Man ED & Ft	150	..	7.5	3.1
1354	953	M & G†	1294	+ 1	3.1	25.9
350	224	MAI	345	+ 3	3.2	17.1
130½	78	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf	124½	+ 3	5.9	
966	680	MAM	889½	+ 16½	3.8	19.8
130	80	Nat Home Loant	108	.	1.2	2.8
2050	1150	Perpetual	2040		2.5	21.5
852	515	Provident	794	...	3.9	17.4
336	245	Rathbone Bs	334	..	3.6	17.2
41½	24½	Rutland Tst	38½	+ ¼	4.2	16.9
355	281	S & U	319	− 3	5.1	9.4
133	100	SJP Capital	101½	..	3.7	19.2
575½	385½	Swire Pacific	575½	+ 2½	2.2	22.0
78	36	Towry Law	37		8.4	
371	302	Transatlantic	340		5.2	22.8
26	3	Utr Hldgs	7½	...	..	..

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2358	425	Brit Biotech	2350	+ 112		
535	103	Cantab Pharms	528	− 2	.	
657	233½	Celltech	657	+ 20	..	.
375	92½	Chiroscience	312	.	.	..
284	31	Cortecs	282	+ 12		
918	587	Glaxo Wellcome	906	+ 1	4.1	20.7
294	162	Medeva	223	+ 5½	2.0	14.3
719	273	Scotia	606	+ 3		
727	444	SmithKline	722½	− 2½	2.3	21.5
721	416	SmKline Uts	718	+ 2½	2.4	21.3
1337½	840	Zeneca	1264	− 14	2.8	25.8

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
289½	155	Frost Group	155	..	5.2	13.0
81	46	Gieves	78		3.2	17.6
229	112	Goldsmiths Gp	195		2.2	17.7
712	508	GUS	695	− 10	2.8	16.2
351	179	Hamleys	327		2.9	14.6
88	25	Hampden Gp	84		2.2	16.2
184	125	Hse of Fraser	181	− 1	3.8	27.2
83	54	Hughes (T J)	54	.	6.1	11.9
168	95	Innovations	136		1.7	69.9
629	229	JJB Sports	510	− 1	1.2	27.5
560	379	Kingfisher	535	− 2	3.5	17.8
192	100	Kingsbury Grp	188		1.6	26.5
365	208	Liberty	313		2.9	29.2
430	184	Lloyds Chem	476	− 6	3.0	16.0
165	108	MFI	161	− 1	3.3	24.0
457	371	Marks Spencer	436	− 5	3.0	18.2
645	500	Menzies (John)	561	− 4	3.1	13.2
635	338	Moss Bros	630		2.4	18.5
469	252	Next	455	− 2	2.7	25.1
54	27	OFM	39			5.3
96	34	Oliver (G)	59½	− ½	2.1	66.4
410	243	Outlaws Intl	405		2.6	19.2
93	68	Partridge Fine	68	− 6	5.5	
155	41	QS Hldgs	42		15.4	11.0
17½	5½	Rhino Grp	11½			
193	113	Rosebys	192		2.2	22.2
120½	95½	Sears	96	− ½	5.1	15.2
24	11½	Signet Group	15			
488	321	Smith WH	419		2.7	13.6
950	638	Sotheby's	945	− 60	1.7	
349	209	Storehouse†	293		2.8	19.1
148	110	Style	110	− 3	5.2	9.4
203	143	T & S Stores	189		4.4	12.0
171	98	Tie Rack	171		2.0	17.9
4½	1	Upton & South	2¼			
598	424	Vendome†	563	+ 2	2.2	20.5
35	14	WEW Group	16		5.5	3.5
84	35	Wld of Leather	74		2.5	
215	155	Wyevale	214		3.0	19.1

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq†	527	..	5.6	19.1
524	390	Bulmer (HP)†	524	+ 13	2.9	16.4
146	99	Burn Stewart	124		5.0	26.7
467	352	Grand Mett	448	− 2½	4.2	15.8
536	404	Guinness	467	− 1½	3.8	14.5
445	315	Highland Dist	321	+ 4	3.1	14.5
217	157	Macallan-Glen	198	+ 1	1.0	27.5
710	600	Macdn Mtn 'A'	635		2.1	17.4
694	532	Matthew Clark	668	+ 2	4.2	
140	81	Merydan W	107		2.3	

WATER

1995/6 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
611	443	Anglian†	565	− 2	6.0	8.6
430	295	Mid Kent Hdgs	430		3.9	11.6
1180	675	Northumbrian	1168		3.2	9.2
689	475	Severn Trent†	624	+ 4	6.0	7.5
2400	1855	South Staffs	2388		3.8	12.5
565	450	South West†	497	− 3	7.0	6.9
731	517	Southern†	670	+ 1	5.1	8.1
575	456	Thames†	538	− 2	6.1	7.3
641	457½	Utd Utilities	600	+ 5	5.5	7.7
800	582½	Welsh†	749		7.0	8.9
109½	100½	Welsh Cm Prf†	102¾	. ½	9.6	
361	256½	Wessex†	335	+ 4	5.1	7.2
677½	472	Yorkshire†	605	− 5	5.9	7.8

Source: Findat

© USM # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * Figures or report awaited. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

هكذا من الأصل

South African leads after two rounds

Strokes of genius elevate Els to new levels of excellence

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SINGAPORE

THEY were strokes well worth travelling around the world to see. No matter how many more tournaments Ernie Els enters this year or how many miles he racks up as he criss-crosses the globe, he will not hit two better iron shots than those at the end of his second round in the Johnnie Walker Classic here. It was a pleasure to see them.

Both strokes flew unerringly at their targets. While the first feathered down a foot or so from the flagstick, landing as gently as a butterfly on a leaf, the second was driven hard and low by one of the strongest men in the game. It bounced on the front of the green and rolled 60 feet to stop beside the hole.

The birdie and eagle helped Els to move from seven to ten under par, ensured that he *finished his second round in* as many days without a bogey and gave him a one-stroke lead over Olle Karlsson, of Sweden, at the Tanah Merah Country Club.

After following Els and Greg Norman almost all the way round, the spectators might have felt the most important occurrence had been on the 7th, their sixteenth, where Leisl, Els's girlfriend, and Laura, Norman's wife, excitedly beckoned their men towards a grove of trees and pointed at what they could see high in the branches.

"I thought it was going to be a lot of monkeys," Norman said. "It was a bird," Els said. "Don't ask me what sort. It was coloured and had a big beak." The hornbill sat on its branch as still as a statue. Its plumage was colourful, its beak as big as a man's hand. With its back turned on the bird watchers, it was showing a lofty disdain for those gathered *30 feet beneath.*

Leading scores 47

"Thanks for showing so much interest in our golf," Norman, striding away from this ornithological interruption towards his ball, said. Whether he was talking to the bird or his wife is not known.

At the 194-yard 8th, their seventeenth, Els had the honour. He selected his six-iron and judged to perfection the ball's passage over a lake so that *it dropped gently two feet* below the hole. A birdie was a formality. On the last hole, Els's drive bisected the fairway and left him 222 yards from the front of the green.

This time the club he chose was his three-iron. His low, boring shot was made to move gently in from the right. It bounced on the front edge of the green and rolled the 20 yards to the flag, coming to rest one foot from its target. "Watching someone so good is always an incentive," Norman said. "From where I was standing, I thought it might go in."

Two strokes behind Els is Paul Eales, of England. Eales *flirted with the leaders in* tournaments at the end of last year and so rounds of 69 and 67 in his first tournament since then were no surprise to him. Eales has become accurate and tournament-hardened, albeit that he is still a short-hitter. On the 8th he used a four-iron, for example, compared to Els's six-iron. On the 9th, though his drive was only ten yards shorter than *Els's, he hit a three-wood with* all his might and it finished 40 yards in front of the green.

While all this was going on, John Daly was courageously putting together a 73 that contained 16 pars, one birdie and the only double-bogey he has had in 36 holes. One of the criticisms of Daly has been that his heart has been rather too faint for the fray. He is now six shots behind Els but *by no means out of it.*

"You can't stop Ernie," Fred Couples said, although after rounds of 68 and 69 he was only three strokes behind the leader himself and making a better attempt than most to do just that. "All we can do is try to catch him." That will be hard if Els plays any more iron shots like the two he played yesterday.

Els has not dropped a shot during two rounds in Singapore

Keegan risks all on a turbulent talent

Rob Hughes fears that the signing of Asprilla could wreck Newcastle United's title dream

Kevin Keegan has an *octopus by the tentacles.* Faustino Asprilla, the exotic Colombian, apparently passed a medical yesterday and, provided that the Home Office grants a work permit, Newcastle United's £7.5 million purchase should be concluded within *the next fortnight.*

Octopus, or "pulpa", was the name that stuck to Asprilla from his days as an eight-year-old street player in Tuluá, in the west of Colombia, and street wiles, street improvisation, street impulsiveness, appear to have governed *the career of this* immensely fast, often irrational and sometimes inspirational goalscorer through to his past three seasons with Parma in Italy.

He could, provided that he strikes instant form, bring the championship to the North East for the first time in 67 years, but if his wayward moods get the better of things, he could also contaminate the *dream that Keegan is paid so* handsomely to deliver.

Keegan will know the risk. In 1972, he was at Liverpool when that club was one of three that overtook the championship favourites and league leaders, Manchester City, when City had been in a similar position to Newcastle today.

Malcolm Allison, having recently nudged Joe Mercer *"upstairs" as the City general* manager, gambled by signing Rodney Marsh from Queens Park Rangers. Marsh, the maverick, was put straight into the team, City lost impetus, shape and games, and Derby County, the eventual champions, Leeds United and Liverpool all took advantage of their disarray.

Joe Mercer was heard to utter that Allison had "paid *£200,000 to lose the championship*". Allison admitted that his own impulsive nature had wanted something extra, something to spice effectiveness with entertainment, though he never agreed with one of his successors as manager, Tony Book, the right back in his 1972 side, who three years later wrote in the programme: "We tried everything in our power to make Rodney a successful part of this club. But now he has to go, we cannot permit the problem to fester."

Marsh's arrival at Maine Road may have cost Manchester City the 1972 championship

Francis Lee and Mike Summerbee, senior players at the time, had implored Allison to leave the chemistry of *the team as it was. I hope,* because Keegan's Newcastle set a trend that could ignite more attractive football for years to come, that history is not about to repeat itself. But the risk is there, particularly since Nevio Scala, the Parma coach, has admitted: "Asprilla is unique. He can exasperate you by ignoring instructions, but he can win a game for you on his own. I wish I could control him."

The manager controlling the players he buys: Keegan is right to believe that he needs two players to complete his championship push — a midfield ball-winner, and a forward to take some of the load *off Les Ferdinand. Rumour* has it that another £3.5 million of Newcastle's fortune is earmarked for David Batty. One only hopes that his destructiveness on the field has not carried over to effect off it, for it is strange that a player so well looked after through a whole year of injury with Blackburn Rovers should now, apparently, go AWOL.

Keegan, should he land Batty, would attempt, one feels sure, to curb the spite in his game, for that has been no part of his work at Newcastle. Buying players for huge sums of money — the £7.5 million compares with £5.5 million in total for the 1971-72 season — *has never daunted him. At the* start of this season he bought Ferdinand and David Ginola, and the task was to empty something of himself, his irrepressible spirit, into performers not known for consistency. He has done that.

Asprilla represents a man-management challenge quite different. He has the will and ability to win medals, but this time the challenge is to tame, or channel, the wilder aspects of his personality.

Asprilla has a speed, a stride, a startling instinct in his sinewy body, to outwit any defence. If he scores 15 goals, even ten, and Ferdinand remains prolific, nobody would catch Newcastle. But, when the club completed its medical examination, it could not run a stethoscope over the unfathomable elements of his brain, his impulse to erupt.

There have been excuses for everything. For the alleged affair with Petra Sharbach, the porn actress in Italy, he said: "She was looking for publicity. I feel into her trap." *For the incident* during a holiday in Colombia, when he returned with 35 stitches in a leg wound, he denied that he had kicked in a bus windscreen during an argument, and insisted that he had slipped on a broken bottle at a swimming pool.

For the cars written off during accidents in Parma, he blamed unfamiliarity with Italian drivers. For the one-year suspended jail sentence concerning the possession of illegal firearms, and firing a pistol into the air during new year frolics, he blamed the law. "They only arrested me because I am rich and famous," he said.

> 'Asprilla can exasperate you, but he can win a game for you on his own'

And for the lost form, the broken marriage *that* separates him from his beloved son, Santiago, Asprilla suggests that the murder, in Medellín, of Andrés Escobar, the Colombia full back, after the 1994 World Cup, has preyed on his mind.

Some of it is plausible, some of *it* stretches credibility, but Asprilla says that he feels like a child again. He hopes the slate can be wiped clean. If it *can, then, even at such a price,* he can help to bring profit to Newcastle, for few players are as swift on the ground, as cunning in the air, or as audaciously potent when faced with apparently forbidding odds around an opponent's goal. If the deal is completed, one hopes for Keegan's sake that the investment pays dividends.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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NAKED AMBITION

Sharon Stone has finally won a best-actress award. So how did the woman so many took for a bimbo pull it off?

The **Style** section reveals all

PLUS THE BEST SPORTS COVERAGE

Cup glory remains on offer in new format

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

FOR official purposes, rugby league's new spring-summer season begins this weekend in *the depths of winter, with* snow, frozen pitches and a familiar risk of postponements in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup. Shirt sleeves and balmy nights in the brash new world of Super League are for later. Now the game must wrap itself in thermals for a cherished competition, which, it seems, is to be be kept in its present form.

Several sides were accused of not trying in the misguided last winter championship, but there will be no need to call for maximum effort in these fourth-round ties.

Having won the competition for the past eight years, it is not unreasonable to assume that Wigan are working on the basis of playing a 13-month season by the time the inaugural Super League programme is completed. They have a straightforward launch of their defence against Bramley tomorrow. Shaun Edwards, having overturned a suspension yesterday, will extend his run of appearances in each of Wigan's 42 undefeated ties.

For St Helens and Warrington, new coaching appointments bring added pressures. *But, while London Broncos* lost Gary Grienke's guidance this week, they have the easiest task of the clubs in a state of upheaval, at Dewsbury.

The tie at Castleford is a fiery baptism for Shaun McRae, the Australian now in charge at St Helens, while Alex Murphy, in command of Warrington for the game at Oldham said: "We'll see who's worth their jersey, but there are places I would prefer to go *than Watersheddings.*"

Thatto Heath, the amateurs from St Helens, had a commendable win at Chorley in the previous round, but are certain to find Rochdale more streetwise.

☐ Wigan and Bath will discuss television, marketing and sponsorship *details* for next week their two meetings, under league and union rules, in May.

SPORTS LETTERS

County cricket must change

From Mr Raman Subba Row

Sir, It may be that our cricketing lives will be brightened by an England success in the forthcoming World Cup, but even that should not be allowed to paper over our continuing poor performance.

Twelve months ago, I wrote saying that there was no point in blaming the manager, captain and players for England's ongoing disappointing results. *The stark reality is that* we are simply not good enough on the international circuit because we are not producing the young players of talent like other countries, who then fearlessly encourage them to learn on the job.

We have too many mediocre *professional cricketers in this* country. We badly need a smaller number of regional working units to which the brightest youngsters would be attached and for which our top cricketers would play — between international matches — the right sort of cricket to *enhance their readiness for* England duty. County cricket as a short-term or long-term preparation for the top is absolutely useless in today's climate. Perhaps a new county cricket structure could embrace the whole country, but we must not kid ourselves any more that it is a vehicle for international success.

The expression "turkeys don't vote for Christmas" may be overused, but the analogy applies particularly to the England cricket problem. The constituent members of the Test and County Cricket Board — or even the long-awaited England Cricket Board — will never vote to *reduce their own status for our* international benefit.

Despite being an evolutionist by instinct, I now believe that the evolution timescale commits England increasingly to the wilderness. The greater the delay, the longer the walk back.

Yours faithfully,
RAMAN SUBBA ROW
(Chairman, Test and County Cricket Board, 1985-90),
Leeward,
Manor Way,
South Croydon, Surrey.

It should be fun

From Mr Freddie Whitelaw

Sir, John Bryant's column ("*Skiing on a collision* course with sanity", January 18) indicates a radical thought process that many sports enthusiasts will find appealing.

It matters not which sport one discusses, today they are all too serious, too professional and much less fun.

Nothing we do as individuals will make any difference to the top levels of each sport, but here in Wengen we do continue at least one tradition that goes back to the days of Arnold Lunn, when the British did genuinely act as pathfinders in establishing the sport of skiing.

On the first Thursday of February each year, we run our must important downhill race, the MacMillan Cup, and *it is run now just as it was* 70 years ago.

Despite international races having many decades ago abandoned the simultaneous start, in the MacMillan Cup everyone starts at the same time, much like a cross-country athletics race, and the only genuinely fixed points through which competitors must pass are the start and finish lines, about four kilometres apart. Numbers of starters vary from year to year, typically 40 to 100.

It is believed that this is the sole remaining race in the *Alps at which all competitors* compete side by side. It was always, and remains, a race for the genuine amateur. Split into various categories (under-40, 40-50, 50-60, 60-70 and over-70, etc) it gives every competitor the chance of some success without having to take it all too seriously.

At approximately noon next Thursday, yet another mixed band of British holidaymakers and locals, such as the director *of tourism, sports shop proprietors* and hoteliers will re-enact, in all seriousness for four or five minutes, downhill ski racing as it used to be.

For most of us, sport should be fun. On this particular day, it most assuredly is.

Yours faithfully,
FREDDIE WHITELAW,
The Downhill Only Ski Club,
3823 Wengen.
Switzerland.

Lottery for yachtsmen

From Mr Rodney Pattisson

Sir, I entirely sympathise with Andy Beadsworth's predicament over shortage of funds for a realistic chance of winning the Olympic gold medal in the Soling class at the forthcoming Games (report, January 25).

The Olympic selectors, headed by Mike McIntyre and Bryn Vale (winners of the Star gold medal in Seoul — chosen, ironically, through a last-minute, sudden-death system) have only themselves to blame for any of our sailors being in this unsatisfactory financial position.

In their wisdom, these selectors chose final trials, which were held last August for all but the Star class. Subsequently, and as intended, the selected few are faced with a year of expensive training abroad until the final competition. Olympic class competition in the UK has died completely for now and until after the Savannah Olympic regatta; sailing in the UK will therefore do little or no good at all and effective training has to be *done abroad.*

Perhaps the selectors are sighing with relief once more. The National Lottery has already provided one lifeline with the purchase of boats, but, as the selected are finding, this is just a small fraction of the overall campaign costs involved. Now, *thanks to a* change in the Lottery rules, a second lifeline has been thrown, which can provide financial help directly to the *participants themsleves.* All that remains is a successful lobbying campaign to the Sports Council, probably by the selectors, but funds are *still limited* and other sports are equally entitled.

If Lottery money assists Andy Beadsworth again, he should not thank the selectors, who were the cause of the problem, but the nation for its enthusiasm for gambling.

Yours sincerely,
RODNEY PATTISSON,
11 Purbeck Avenue,
Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

Merseyside's finest come under Cup threat from two rejected strikers and one resilient manager

Shrewsbury look to their unlikely lads

FA CUP

By Peter Ball

LIVERPOOL'S international back three are household names, the Shrewsbury Town forwards they are facing in the FA Cup fourth-round tie at Gay Meadow today are not; but, like Scales, Ruddock and Babb, Steve Anthrobus and Dean Spink have caught the eye of international managers. Spink was signed for Aston Villa by Graham Taylor, Anthrobus for Wimbledon by Bobby Gould.

The Liverpool defenders will recognise Anthrobus, for all have played with him — Babb and Ruddock at Millwall, where he started, Scales at Wimbledon, where he arrived as understudy for John Fashanu. That fact alone will give them pause for thought, as will his warning. "If I do play, they won't get any respect off me — until after the game in the bar," Anthrobus said. "I'm going to run myself into the ground against those three."

They had better believe it. Neither he nor Spink quite made it at the top level, although Anthrobus made 30 appearances for Wimbledon under Gould, Ray Harford and Peter Withe, mainly as a powerful left winger in the days when even their wide players were expected to be big and aggressive.

A series of injuries did not help, but when Withe left, Joe Kinnear sent Anthrobus on loan to Peterborough United, Chester City and Dundee before he finally joined Spink at Gay Meadwow. It was a big change. "I'm a Cockney, Old Kent Road boy, and I've moved from near Millwall to living in a barn house on a farm now," he said. "It took me a couple of months to adjust, but my football's slowly improving."

He is loving the football. Shrewsbury have an impressive Cup record, with Ipswich Town and Manchester City among their victims when both were leading teams. But, with Fred Davies as manager, it will be with football rather than up-and-unders that they will try to beat Liverpool. As they ran through their tactics in a practice game, Anthrobus even set up one chance with a back-heel.

"You'd never have got that out of me at Wimbledon," he said, "but I'm so much more confident now. The gaffer has been brilliant to me, he wants me to play. He says: 'We'll get the Wimbledon style out of you.' Some players respond to being shouted at, but others need support, or being taken aside and told: 'This is what you need to work on, this is what you're good at, and this is what you are bad at,' and that's what Fred Davies does. And that's why I'm enjoying it so much."

Spink, the club captain, has also found Davies a sympathetic manager. A late developer, he was working as a window-cleaner when his goals for Halesowen Town began to attract attention, and he signed for Aston Villa. He scored 17 goals in 21 games for the reserves, but his lack of an apprenticeship told against him, and he signed for Asa Hartford at Shrewsbury.

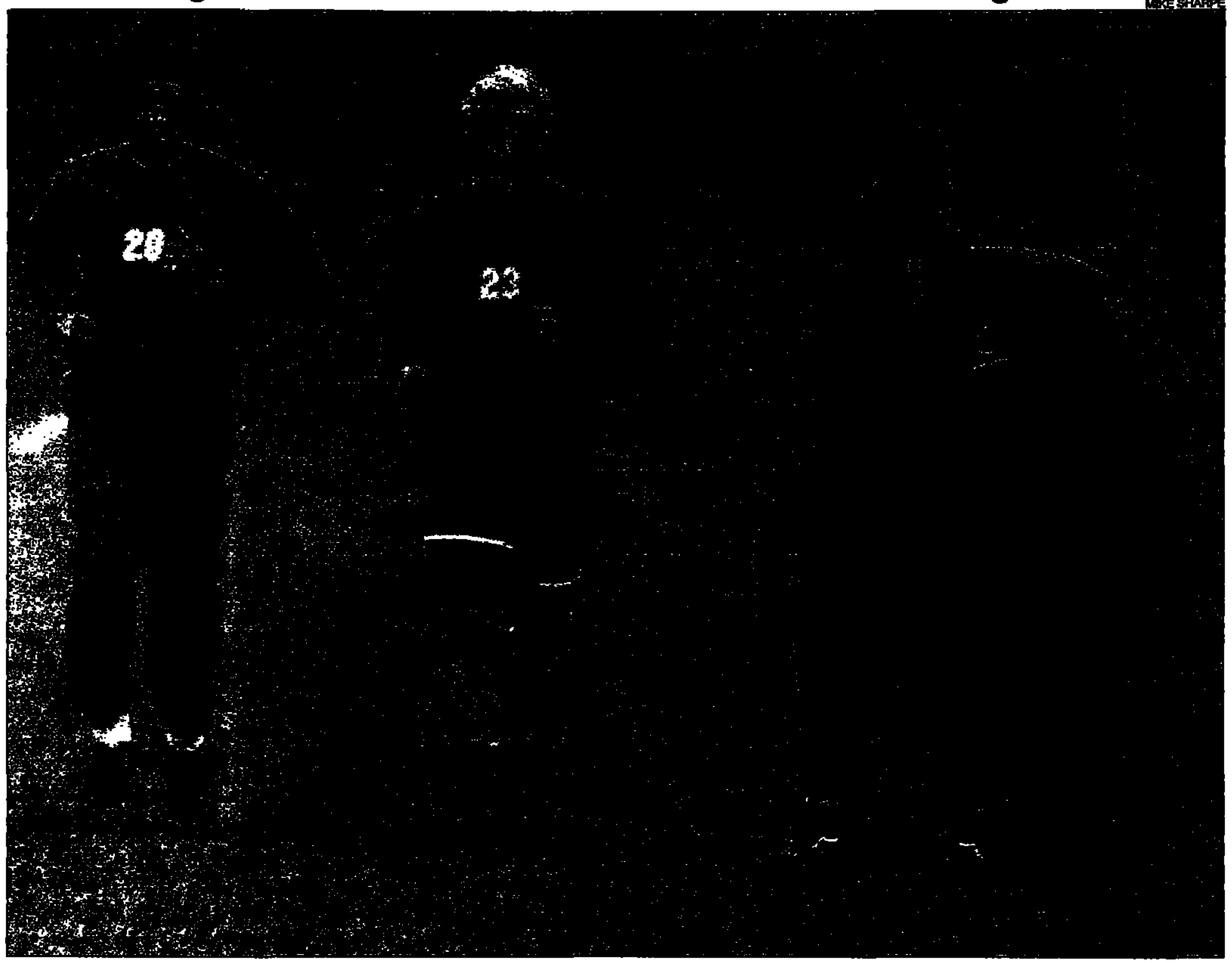
Two weeks later, Hartford had gone, and John Bond arrived as manager. It was an unhappy time. Bond did not rate him as a forward, and left him in no doubt. "On one occasion he said: 'I want you to go home for the weekend and think about your career, and then come in on Monday and tell me you're packing the game in'," Spink said. "He said he'd love me as a son, but I was no use as a footballer. He used to say I'd never make a forward as long as I hadn't got a scar on my head. But I couldn't see that Gary Lineker's head was covered in scars."

They compromised, with Bond moving Spink to centre half, but a serious thigh injury, which had briefly threatened his life when a blood clot developed, kept him out for six months; when he returned, Bond had gone, and Davies had taken over.

Davies *did* rate him as a striker, and has been repaid, Spink scoring 20 goals as they won promotion to the Endsleigh Insurance League second division. Last season he was the leading scorer, as he is again now, even though injuries have kept him out at times and he has played in defence at others. "I prefer playing in attack, but I'm happy to help out where needed," he said. "Against Liverpool, I don't mind where I play as long as I'm selected."

Anthrobus will go along with that. He supported Liverpool as a boy and still does, making his admiration for his former colleagues tinged with jealousy. All three command his admiration — Babb ("even as an apprentice, nothing ruffled him"), Ruddock ("two great feet and as hard as nails"), and Scales ("Robert Redford — Mr Perfect") — but the shirt he wants at the end of the match belongs to his hero, another left winger, John Barnes. "I shall be across the pitch to him and say: 'Sir John, can I have your shirt?'"

MIKE SHARPE



Anthrobus, left, and Spink are put through their paces by Davies, the Shrewsbury Town manager, before the visit of Liverpool today

Williams relishes meeting the best

By Russell Kempson

ON WEDNESDAY, Adrian Williams, the Wales defender, faced Fabrizio Ravanelli and Gianfranco Zola, the Italy forwards; this afternoon, Williams, the Reading captain, takes on Andy Cole and Eric Cantona, of Manchester United. In successive matches, he will have confronted four of the best strikers in Europe. As learning processes go, they do not come much tougher.

For Williams, 24, there is no fear or trepidation, only an eagerness for more of the same. It illustrates how far he has progressed since he made his debut for Reading in the 1988-89 season, and why it is likely that FA Carling Premiership clubs will come a-knocking this summer.

Though the 3-0 defeat against Italy in Terni, near Rome, was a chastening experience for all Welshmen concerned, Williams views it — and the FA Cup fourth-round tie against United at Elm Park today — as vital if he is to continue his upward mobility. "Italy are a magnificent side with brilliant players," he said.

"I normally return from the Welsh trips to a match against Barnsley away, or something like that, but playing United is such a massive game for us. It's always great to pit your wits against international players and, although United will start as odds-on favourites, you never know what might happen. We'll give them respect but not too much of it."

Bobby Mihaylov, the Reading and Bulgaria goalkeeper, is struggling to overcome a persistent thigh injury. Tony Coton and Brian McClair have been added to United's squad, although Alex Ferguson, the manager, is likely to retain the side that won 1-0 at West Ham United on Monday.

Middlesbrough go into their tie against Wimbledon, at the Riverside Stadium, on a dismal run of five successive Premiership defeats. They could be further hindered by the loss of Juninho, Bryan Robson, the player-manager, and Chris Whyte because of injuries. Juninho has knee trouble.

Nottingham Forest also have personnel problems for their game against Oxford United, of the Endsleigh League second division, at the City Ground. Stuart Pearce, the Forest captain, sustained a calf injury during England's three-day training get-together this week and is doubtful. David Phillips will replace him.

Matthew Le Tissier, the Southampton midfield player, is hoping to revive his flagging career against Crewe Alexandra at The Dell. After scoring 29 goals last season, he has managed only six this time around and drifted out of the plans of Terry Venables, the England coach.

"I admit my form could be better," Le Tissier said. "I'm having a bad spell and it's a matter of working my way through it. I've got to be positive and believe in my own ability. Everyone goes through a lean patch but I keep being reminded about mine."

Romance lights up Rudge's survival game

By David Maddock

HE LOOKS for all the world like a second-rate game-show host down on his luck, but appearances, in this case, are deceptive. John Rudge may not smile a lot, he may have the weary expression of a man bowed by the struggle to survive, but he also has a sense of humour.

He needs it. "Sense of humour? Aye, you've got to have that in my job, and more than that," he laughs. "I've been here for 16 years — the Great Train Robbers didn't get a sentence that long."

Rudge is the manager of Port Vale, has been for the past 13 seasons, and was assistant before that. He is the second longest-serving manager in England, at a club that is considered the unfashionable one in the less than glamorous city of Stoke-on-Trent. The club is situated in Burslem — Burslem of Arnold Bennett's Five Towns fame — and Rudge, toiling cheerfully against stacked odds, could be a character straight out of the novels of the Potteries' favourite son. Even the name has that ring about it when you say it slowly: Rudge.

There is, however, very little drudge, or indeed fudge, about the man who has transformed a downtrodden fourth division side into a respectable member of the first division *hoi polloi*.

He has achieved it on a creative mixture of insight and cheerful optimism. "We have always had to produce players here to survive. Bring them in cheap and sell them on at a premium. We've done it with Darren Beckford, Robbie Earle and with Ian Taylor. Not bad that one, we got him for £15,000 and sold him for £1 million. It goes on all the time, but it gets harder and harder. Mind you, we may have another couple. Gareth Griffiths cost £7,000 from Rhyl and he could be a good 'un."

Despite Rudge's instinct for survival, despite his achievement, despite his commitment, there have been times when he came close to being dismissed. "People think I've just gone comfortably along, no pressures here, but I know that I have been one game away from the sack lots of times," he said.

"I think only the support of the fans has saved me. They have been very supportive, but you still end up in the situation where people have short memories, they forget what you have done. In the end, the sack will come — the cliché's true, it is inevitable for a manager."

So why does he stay? Why does he wait for the ungrateful refrain of thanks for the memories? There have been plenty of offers over the years: "I am ambitious, but even though there have been jobs offering more money, they have not been the right ones.

"We have built up a good club here, and I am proud of the progress we have made. What's the point of moving on unless the challenge is greater? I still have a big challenge here, improving the profile of Vale, trying somehow to build a platform where we can think about going higher."

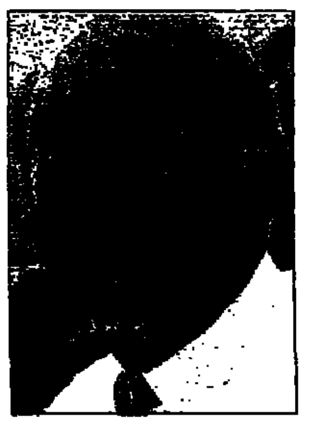
So to the FA Cup. Rudge will be out there tomorrow, win or lose against Everton in the fourth round at Goodison Park today, looking for the next signing to keep Vale above water. But he cannot resist the lure of the Cup's romance for a moment.

Rudge watched with increasing agitation as Stockport County threatened an upset against Everton in the last round. "I thought, 'Bloody hell, we've played Stockport quite enough times, thank you'. Thank goodness Everton pulled themselves together. It's a great thing the FA Cup, it's something for the whole town to enjoy. We get a bit of cash — which helps — and we get a chance to have a go at a big club.

"We've got a good record you know — beaten Tottenham, Southampton and Derby in my time. If they have an off day, then we've got a chance of doing it again."

With his balding pate and straight-man's face, Rudge will never cut a glamorous dash in the managerial fastlane. His experience, and ability, demands more, but he could be left forever at Port Vale, living on the scraps from the rich man's table.

In Bennett's novels, the Golden Angel of the Five Towns looks down imperiously from Burslem Town Hall. It is there now, perched atop the Burslem Civic Centre, its hopeful smile stretching over the rooftops towards Vale Park in the distance. Rudge will recognise that smile.



Rudge: optimistic

FOURTH ROUND FORM GUIDE

SINCE the FA Cup took on its present form in 1925-26, Liverpool and Everton have won the most fourth-round ties (35 apiece). Liverpool might, however, be said to shade their Merseyside rivals because they have reached this stage on two more occasions.

Of the Endsleigh Insurance League sides left in the competition, Sheffield United have the best record at this stage, with 19 wins and 21 defeats, followed by Wolverhampton Wanderers, with 19 wins and 18 losses. Historically, at least, they represent the best chance of an "outsider" lifting the trophy.

At the other end of the scale, Crewe Alexandra have negotiated the fourth round once, in 1990-91, when they beat Rotherham United 1-0 — only to go out in the next round to West Ham United

Two ties feature clubs meeting for the first time in the Cup: Southampton v Crewe and Shrewsbury Town v Liverpool. Those ties also feature two of the seven sides representing the second division in the fourth round. Curiously, there have been no recent encounters between any of the teams matched this weekend.

	P	W	L
Liverpool	50	35	15
Everton	48	35	13
Tottenham	46	34	12
Manchester U	47	32	15
Chelsea	47	29	18
Man City	42	25	17
Aston Villa	39	24	15
Middlesbrough	36	21	15
Nottm Forest	36	21	15
West Ham	39	20	19
Bolton	37	20	17
Sheff Utd	40	19	21
Wolves	37	19	18
Leeds	35	18	17
Southampton	30	17	13
Ipswich	28	16	12
Huddersfld	30	12	18
Charlton	25	11	14
QPR	15	11	4
Coventry	24	8	16
Grimsby	19	8	11
Swindon	28	7	21
Wimbledon	10	7	3
Port Vale	19	6	13
Shrewsbury	11	6	5
Brentford	16	5	11
Oxford Utd	13	5	8
Oldham	12	4	8
Peterborough	12	4	8
Walsall	12	4	8
Reading	11	3	8
Crewe	7	1	6

Favourites

Seven clubs have never beaten their opposition in the FA Cup: Brentford, Manchester City, Wimbledon, Wolverhampton, Peterborough, Port Vale and Grimsby and the highlighted teams hold superiority over their lesser opponents (the home team's record is shown).

Manchester United have suffered only one reverse against Reading, in 1926-27, the latter's one success in nine matches, when they lost 2-1 in a second replay.

Aston Villa will be on their guard against Sheffield United, who dispatched Arsenal in the last round, after a replay at Bramall Lane, and have managed one victory over the Midlanders in their previous meetings.

	W	D	L
Charlton v Brentford	2	0	0
Coventry v Man City	2	0	0
Everton v Port Vale	1	0	0
Huddersfield v Peterboro	1	0	0
Middlesbro v Wimbledon	1	1	0
Reading v **Manchester U**	1	4	4
Sheff U v **Aston Villa**	1	1	2
Tottenham v Wolves	3	1	0
West Ham v Grimsby	1	0	0

Close encounters

Two ties feature clubs standing all square in their Cup meetings. The all-Premiership clash (one of four in this round) of Chelsea and Queens Park Rangers should be close but Nottingham Forest's home advantage should prove decisive against Oxford United.

	W	D	L
Nottm Forest v Oxford	1	0	1
QPR v Chelsea	1	1	1

Possible upsets

In three ties, clubs hold an historical ascendancy over loftier rivals. Leeds United have managed one success from five matches against Bolton Wanderers, Swindon Town have beaten Oldham Athletic in their only meeting and Walsall beat Ipswich Town at the second time of asking in their only Cup meeting.

	W	D	L
Bolton v Leeds	2	2	1
Ipswich v Walsall	0	1	1
Swindon v Oldham	1	0	0

Julian Desborough

Midfield trio enrich South Africa

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent

THE rhythm of the African Nations' Cup changes abruptly this weekend, now that eight teams remain. The quarter-finals contain the essence of knockout competition, and in three of the four South African venues the promise of a contest between the explosive, unpredictable southern talents and the more controlled techniques of Arab-influenced teams from the north of the continent — Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia — who have all made light of the handicap of their Ramadan fast.

Already gone are three highly-fancied teams, the "elephants" of Ivory Coast and the "lions" of Cameroon, too long in the tusk and the tooth. Gone also is George Weah, the world player of the year, whose Liberia team did more talking than playing.

"I want to say I hope my country brings peace," Weah said on the eve of his second and last appearance. "I hope my people will lay down arms and see that we can learn to live together."

Weah is back in Italy with AC Milan for their *Serie A* match tomorrow. Today, in Johannesburg, the hosts welcome back three midfield players who were absent when they lost to Egypt in their final group game.

Doctor Khumalo, who gives pace and penetration down the right, Innocent "Iron Man" Buthelezi and "Shoes" Moshoeu are expected to provide the impetus for South Africa to overcome the control that Moussa Saib, the Auxerre play-maker, exerts for Algeria.

Tonight, in possibly the tie of the round, Zambia meet Egypt in Bloemfontein. Here is proof that old players, like old soldiers, never die. Kalusha Bwalya, 32, a survivor of the plane crash that killed 18 Zambia players three years ago, has scored five times in two games, proving he is as deft with his left foot as he is dignified in manner.

Egypt are led by Ahmed El Kass, also scoring freely thanks to the creativity of Hazem Emam, 20, whose father has been holding touchline negotiations with representatives from the Italian clubs Parma and Sampdoria.

In Port Elizabeth tomorrow afternoon, the favourites, Ghana, wil also trust experience when they encounter Zaire. Abedi Pelé, 31, complements the talents of Tony Yeboah, the *Leeds United* forward; he has lost none of his speed or bravery and scored in all three group games. Zaire became the third team to sack their coach during the week, yet still defeated Liberia handsomely.

Finally, if the rain relents in Durban, Gabon, the outsiders, compete against the disciplined Tunisians.

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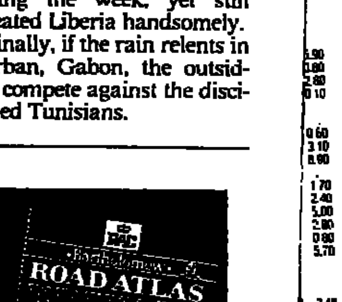

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Chang to meet German in Australian Open final after crushing victory over Agassi

Becker adds refinement to power play

FROM STUART JONES
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN MELBOURNE

THE Australian Open final tomorrow might be acclaimed as a tennis match made in heaven. Michael Chang is forever mentioning that "the Lord" is on his side and Boris Becker is so imposing at the moment that his semi-final victim reckoned that "God could have been up the other end, and he still would have beaten him easily".

Although they have been blessed by favourable draws (each has met only one seed), the pair have merited their survival through an earthly quality, hard labour. Over the past year or two, both have been working on refining their games, which they might already have considered to be sufficiently strong.

Becker, 28, has been an established member of the top ten for a decade and Chang, more than four years his junior, since 1992. Multi-millionaires, they could have spent the rest of their careers accruing further riches and leading leisurely lifestyles. Yet both recognised contrasting deficiencies and strove to eradicate them.

Chang, though the most efficient of retrievers, was short of power. Becker, though intimidating as one of the world's leading exponents of the serve and volley, lacked speed and consistency in his ground strokes.

Hence, Chang has not won a grand slam title since the French Open in 1989, when he was only 17. Becker was the Wimbledon champion at the same tender age but he has not claimed any of the four crowns since the Australian Open in 1991, which elevated him to No 1 in the rankings.

His resurgence was notable at Wimbledon, where he was the runner-up in July, and at Frankfurt, where he won the ATP tour championship finals in November.

He has become increasingly convincing here, too, over the past fortnight. "Once I'd had ten sets [five of them against Greg Rusedski] in the first two rounds, I felt I'd had enough practice," as he put it. Mark Woodforde had cleverly harnessed for his own benefit the power of Mark Philippoussis and Thomas Enqvist but, against Becker, he was overwhelmed 6-4, 6-2, 6-0 in little more than an hour and a half.

"It wasn't too much fun," the sentimental favourite on Australia Day bemoaned. "It was like facing a bulldozer."

He shares the common belief that Becker is now virtually irresistible and even considered backing his opinion with half of his prize-money, £35,000. "He is blasting the first or second serve and then coming in, and that's the way to beat Michael Chang," Woodforde said.

Andre Agassi agrees. "Boris has the game to take Michael's speed out of the equation," was his sane prediction. However, Agassi's excuse for his performance in the semi-final against Chang was as bizarre and nonsensical as his conduct during the match.

After his right wrist had been surgically repaired two years ago, he had undergone a similar metamorphosis as the two finalists are now. He rapidly developed a genuine rivalry with Pete Sampras, whom this week he has again deposed as the world No 1, but there are fears that he is regressing. The evidence for considering that he may be going back to his old self and abusing his prodigious talent has been spread across the past few months.

His assertion that he could not take part in the Davis Cup final because of an aggravated injury was less than persuasive. Before entering the championships, he knocked his knee on an iron stair railing and struggled initially to eliminate a little-known qualifier, Gaston Etlis, in five sets. Ever since he has veered from the occasionally brilliant, particularly when two sets down to Jim Courier, to the overtly and puzzlingly lethargic.

Flinders Park results 47

Apart from the odd bolt of lightning ("he hit some unbelievable shots," Chang commented) Agassi once more gave the impression that, win or lose, he did not care. More than once, he let go a ball that, had he bothered to move, would seemingly have been within his reach.

He yielded the opening set in only 26 minutes and, in capitulating 6-1, 6-4, 7-6, including the last seven points of the tie-break in a row, the unforced errors he sprayed amounted to 60. That is 11 more than Becker, Chang and Woodforde put together.

Agassi admitted to feeling "flat", a curious confession in view of the exuberance of Becker, who had overall played only two fewer than his 22 sets. Mysteriously, he claimed that "the wind played havoc out there". Neither Chang nor anybody else noticed anything other than an occasional swirling breeze.

"I could have gone out and run down every ball for as long as I could and made it look like a close match," he rambled. "Nevertheless, I am not trying to make it look like a close match. I am trying to win it." He could have fooled us all.

☐ The Grand Slam Cup, which is to be relocated from Frankfurt to Hanover this year, is also to move in the calendar next year. It will probably be held in October, rather than in December in the crowded weeks after the finals of the ATP tour championship and the Davis Cup.

Chang stretches for a volley and loses his grip on his racket during his straight-sets semi-final victory over Agassi in Melbourne yesterday

Limits on racket size in pipeline

BY JOHN GOODBODY

IF MICHAEL CHANG, at 5ft 9in, can serve 13 aces against Andre Agassi with a 29-inch racket, just imagine what one of the giants of international tennis might do with an even longer racket.

Players such as Todd Martin, Goran Ivanisevic and Richard Krajicek are all 6ft 4in tall. They could be hitting even more aces than they already do, if they were to use 32 inch-long rackets, the maximum size permitted under present rules.

So the International Tennis Federation (ITF) has proposed limiting the length to 29 inches. Most rackets in use in both the professional and amateur game are 27 or 28 inches but Chang has been using a longer one over the past year to help him to become more competitive at the higher levels of a sport that has become dominated by the power-servers.

Chang says that using the bigger racket has helped him to achieve greater control and power in his service, and it was shown to its full advantage in his straight-sets win over Agassi yesterday.

The ITF committee of management will recommend the new limit to its 190 member nations at its annual meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland, in June.

The Association of Tennis Professionals has already moved to restrict the length of rackets to 29 inches on all tournaments on its tour as from this month.

In its latest news bulletin, the ITF noted that if Martin, at 6ft 6in, used a 32-inch racket, he would serve the ball from more than a foot higher than Chang could.

An ITF spokesman said: "We have proposed that the new limit should be uniform throughout the game.

"We thought it would not be right to allow a player to use a 32-inch racket as a junior and then go back to a 28-inch when he moves into the ranks of the seniors."

New boats sail into reckoning for the Olympics

FROM EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT
IN MIAMI

PAUL HENDERSON, the president of the International Yacht Racing Union (IYRU), confirmed yesterday that a wide range of so-called "high-performance" dinghies are to be assessed for possible inclusion in the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

Up to ten member nations of the world's governing body of sailing, including Britain, have applied to hold evaluation or observation trials of possible contenders for the new class, Henderson told a press conference at the Olympic Classes Regatta here.

Olympic sailing is restricted by the International Olympic Committee to ten events, with around 440 competitors. It is likely, therefore, that one existing class — possibly the Laser or the Finn — may have to be dropped to make room for the new boat.

However, an intriguing proposal from Croatia would avoid this by making the 470 class, at present sailed in separate fleets by men and women, an open event.

Among the top contenders for the new class are the two British-made asymmetric twin-trapeze boats, the Laser 5000 and the Boss. Also in the frame is the Australian 49er, the Flying Dutchman, the RS4000 and the B14E skiff design.

Among the most enthusiastic proponents of the move to include the fastest and most exciting new boats is Mike Jackson, the British delegate on the IYRU council. "There is a formal policy that we should have trials for such a boat — we need to demonstrate the boats to the world in this way," he said. "There are enough people on the IYRU council who believe this type of sailing should be properly represented at the Olympics."

Opposition is expected, especially from Eastern Europe, where the new boats are perceived as too expensive and too thinly spread.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*
pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Cup
Fourth round
(1) * Bolton v Leeds
(2) * Charlton v Brentford
(3) Coventry v Man City P
(-) Everton v Port Vale
(5) Huddersfield v Peterborough
(6) Ipswich v Walsall P
(7) Middlesbrough v Wimbledon
(-) Nottingham Forest v Oxford Utd
(8) * Reading v Man Utd
(9am pitch inspection)
(4) * Shrewsbury v Liverpool
(9) Southampton v Crewe
(10) Swindon v Oldham P
(—) Tottenham v Wolverhampton
(11) West Ham v Grimsby

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
(—) Crystal Palace v Luton
(—) Millwall v Portsmouth
(—) Watford v Derby P

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby	27	14	8	5	45	30	50
Charlton	26	12	9	5	39	28	45
Huddersfield	28	11	9	8	37	32	42
Sunderland	25	11	9	5	31	20	42
Southend	27	11	8	8	31	32	41
Leicester	26	10	9	7	40	36	39
Stoke	27	10	9	8	37	33	39
Millwall	27	10	9	8	29	33	39
Norwich	28	10	8	10	39	34	38
Birmingham	26	10	8	8	37	36	38
Ipswich	26	9	10	7	47	37	37
Barnsley	27	9	10	8	35	42	37
Grimsby	27	9	10	8	32	33	37
Tranmere	25	9	7	9	36	29	34
C Palace	25	8	10	7	32	33	34
Portsmouth	28	8	8	12	44	46	32
Oldham	26	7	11	8	34	29	32
Reading	26	7	10	9	32	36	31
Port Vale	27	7	9	11	33	40	30
Wolvrhmptn	26	6	10	10	32	37	28
West Brom	26	7	4	15	29	45	25
Watford	25	5	10	10	28	32	25
Luton	25	6	7	12	23	37	25
Sheff Utd	26	5	8	13	33	45	23

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division. Alfreton v Netherfield, Curzon Ashton v Workington, Farsley Celtic v Atherton LR, Fleetwood v Great Harwood, Gretna v Bradford PA Ave, Harrogate Town v Warrington, Leigh v Lancaster, Lincoln United v Whitley Bay, Radcliffe v Eastwood Town, Worksop v Ashton United

LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Barry, Briton Ferry v Cemaes Bay, Caersws v Conwy (2.30), Connah's Quay v Ton Pentre, Cwmbran v Rhyl; Flint Town v Caernarfon (2.30); Inter Cardiff v Afan Lido, Llansantffraid v Llanelli, Newtown v Holywell, Porthmadog v Aberystwyth

Second division
(12) Bradford v Notts County
(10am pitch inspection)
(13) Burnley v Bristol Rovers
(14) Carlisle v Rotherham
(—) Hull v Bristol City
(—) Swansea v Stockport
(15) Wrexham v Bournemouth
(8.30am pitch inspection)
(16) Wycombe v Brighton
(10.0am pitch inspection)
(17) York v Chesterfield
(10.30am pitch inspection)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	25	14	8	3	42	17	50
Crewe	24	14	5	5	46	26	47
Blackpool	25	12	8	5	39	25	44
Notts Co	23	12	7	4	35	19	43
Chestrfield	24	11	7	6	36	25	40
Burnley	24	10	8	6	39	31	38
Bournemouth	26	11	5	10	33	36	38
Bradford	26	11	4	11	36	42	37
Shrewsbury	26	11	4	11	35	35	37
Wrexham	25	8	12	5	35	27	36
Wycombe	25	8	12	5	32	26	36
Bristol R	26	9	8	9	30	36	35
Walsall	24	9	8	7	28	18	35
Oxford Utd	24	9	7	8	31	25	34
Stockport	26	8	9	9	32	29	33
Rotherham	26	8	7	11	32	39	31
Bristol City	27	7	10	10	25	37	31
Peterboro	24	7	8	9	34	38	29
Carlisle	26	5	10	11	31	40	25
York	24	7	4	13	27	39	25
Swansea	25	5	9	11	36	42	24
Brentford	24	6	6	12	21	31	24
Brighton	26	6	5	15	23	40	23
Hull	25	2	9	14	18	43	15

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Burton, Baldock v Cambridge City, Crawley v Gresley, Dorchester v Halesowen, Gravesend and Northfleet v Gloucester, Ilkeston v Chelmsford, Newport AFC v Cheltenham, Salisbury v Rushden and Diamonds, Stafford v Hastings, Sudbury Tn v Worcester, VS Rugby v Merthyr. Midland division: Bedworth v Stourbridge, Bridgnorth v Solihull; Bury Town v Nuneaton, Dudley Town v Buckingham Town, Evesham v Corby, Hinckley Town v R C Warwick; Kings Lynn v Moor Green, Leicester United v Sutton Coldfield; Paget R v Bilston, Redditch v Grantham; Rothwell v Tamworth. Southern division: Ashford v Forest Green, Cinderford v Bashley; Fleet T v Trowbridge, Havant v Braintree, Margate v Fareham, Newport (IoW) v Erith and Belvedere, Waterlooville v Weymouth; Weston-super-Mare v Sittingbourne, Witney v Tonbridge Angels, Yate v Fisher 93

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Horley, Bedfont v Cobham, DCA Basingstoke v Walton Casuals; Hartley Wintney v Feltham; Netherne v Ashford, Peppard v Cranleigh, Raynes Park Vale v Viking Sports; Reading v Godalming and Guildford, Sandhurst v Merstham, Westfield v Chipstead

Third division
(18) Chester v Wigan
(19) Colchester v Cambridge Utd P
(20) Exeter v Cardiff
(—) Fulham v Darlington
(21) Gillingham v Barnet
(10am pitch inspection)
(—) Hereford v Plymouth
(22) Leyton Orient v Scarborough
(8.30am pitch inspection)
(23) Northampton v Hartlepool
(24) Preston v Bury
(25) Rochdale v Torquay
(7.15am pitch inspection)
(26) Scunthorpe v Lincoln

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	25	14	7	4	33	10	49
Preston	25	11	12	2	51	23	45
Chester	26	12	8	6	44	31	44
Doncaster	25	12	5	8	31	32	41
Colchester	25	10	10	5	38	30	40
Darlington	25	10	9	6	28	24	39
Plymouth	26	10	8	8	41	32	38
Bury	25	9	9	7	29	31	36
Wigan	25	9	8	8	33	32	35
Northampton	25	9	7	9	28	25	34
Camb Utd	26	9	6	11	40	45	33
Rochdale	25	9	6	10	35	30	33
Scunthorpe	24	8	8	8	36	31	32
Hereford	24	7	10	7	35	30	31
L Orient	27	8	7	12	26	36	31
Mansfield	26	6	12	8	34	44	30
Exeter	26	6	12	8	27	31	30
Barnet	26	6	12	8	27	32	30
Hartlepool	24	7	8	9	26	34	29
Cardiff	26	7	8	11	24	30	29
Fulham	24	5	11	8	29	33	26
Scarborough	26	5	11	10	27	37	26
Lincoln	25	6	8	11	24	38	26
Torquay	25	3	8	14	22	47	17

Vauxhall Conference
(27) Bath v Kidderminster
(28) Bromsgrove v Morecambe
(29) Dagenham and Red v Runcorn
(30) Dover v Altrincham P
(31) Gateshead v Woking P
(32) Hednesford v Stevenage
(33) Northwich v Kettering
(34) Southport v Slough
(35) Stalybridge v Farnborough P
(36) Telford v Halifax
(37) Welling v Macclesfield P

Icis League
Premier division
(38) Aylesbury v Molesey
(39) Boreham Wood v Hendon
(40) Carshalton v Bromley
(41) Chertsey v Worthing
(42) Enfield v Purfleet
(43) Grays v Yeovil P
(44) Hayes v Sutton United
(45) Hitchin v Yeading
(—) Kingstonian v Harrow
(—) St Albans v Dulwich

UniBond League
Premier division
(46) Bishop Auckland v Bamber Bridge
(47) Chorley v Accrington Stanley
(48) Colwyn Bay v Gainsborough
(—) Frickley v Knowsley
(—) Guiseley v Emley
(—) Hyde v Blyth Spartans P
(—) Leek v Spennymoor
(—) Marine v Buxton
(—) Matlock v Witton
(—) Winsford v Barrow

Tennents Scottish Cup
Third round
(—) Berwick v Dundee Utd
(10am pitch inspection)
(—) Caledonian Thistle v East Fife
(—) Clyde v Dundee
(9.30am pitch inspection)
(49) Clydebank v Stirling
(10am pitch inspection)
(50) Dumbarton v Airdrie
(51) Dunfermline v St Mirren
(10am pitch inspection)
(52) Falkirk v Stenhousemuir
(53) Greenock Morton v Montrose
(8.30am pitch inspection)
(54) Hamilton v St Johnstone
(55) Hearts v Partick
(56) Hibernian v Kilmarnock
(—) Keith v Rangers
(at Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen)
(57) Raith v Queen's Park
(58) Ross County v Forfar

Bell's Scottish League
Second division
(—) Ayr v Stranraer

Third division
(—) Brechin v Arbroath
(10.30am pitch inspection)
(—) Cowdenbeath v Livingston
(10.30am pitch inspection)
(—) East Stirling v Alloa
(10.30am pitch inspection)

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Abingdon Town v Chesham; Berkhamsted v Barking; Heybridge Swifts v Basingstoke; Leyton Pennant v Whyteleafe; Maidenhead United v Uxbridge, Staines v Billericay, Thame v Bognor Regis, Wembley v Tooting and Mitcham; Wokingham v Marlow. Second division: Banstead v Witham, Bedford T v Wivenhoe, Bracknell v Chalfont St Peter; Croydon v Ware; Dorking v Cheshunt, Edgware v H Hempstead; Egham v Hungerford; Hampton v Collier R, Leatherhead v Canvey Island; Metropolitan Police v Tilbury. Third division: Aveley v Tring, Cove v Kingsbury; Flackwell Heath v Epsom and Ewell; Harefield v East Thurrock, Harlow v Clapton, Hertford v Wealdstone, Lewes v Hornchurch, Northwood v Windsor and Eton, Southall v Camberley, Wingate and Finchley v Horsham.

FA OF WALES TROPHY: Quarter-final replay: Oswestry v Penrhyncoch.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Hullbridge Sports; Brentwood v Great Wakering, Concord v East Ham, Eton Manor v Maldon; Romford v Sawbridgeworth; Southend Manor v Ford United; Stansted v Basildon U

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Cockfosters; Brimsdown res v Hillingdon Boro; Corinthian-Casuals v Waltham Abbey, Hanwell v *Brook House; St Margaretsbury v Tufnell* Park, Tottenham Omada v Croydon; Willesden (Hawkeye) v Woolwich.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Arlesey Town v Letchworth; Hoddesdon v Royston; Welwyn Garden v Potters Bar; Biggleswade v Dunstable, Shillington v Buckingham Athletic; Hatfield v London Colney

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Bristol Manor Farm; Chippenham v Barnstaple, Frome v Brislington; Mangotsfield v Crediton, Paulton R v Elmore; Taunton v Tiverton; Torrington v Calne; Westbury v Bridport.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton v Wisbech; Great Yarmouth v Felixstowe, Haverhill v Watton; Lowestoft v Sudbury, March v Sudbury Res, Newmarket v Harwich and Parkeston, Wroxham v Hadleigh U. Cup: Quarter-finals: Diss v Tiptree; Fakenham v Ely; Halstead v Warboys; Woodbridge v Stowmarket.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: *First division:* Lymington v Swanage and Herston, Totton v Brockenhurst; BAT v Andover, Christchurch v Thatcham; East Cowes v Bournemouth; Petersfield v Aerostructures; Ryde Sports v Bemerton Heath; Wimborne v Eastleigh.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division. Arundel v Langney Sports, Eastbourne Town v Wick; Hailsham v Burgess Hill; Hassocks v Whitehawk, Horsham YMCA v Portfield; Oakwood v Mile Oak; Pagham v Ringmer, Peacehaven and Telscombe v Three Bridges, Southwick v Crowborough; Stamco v Shoreham.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Corinthian; Canterbury v Thamesmead, Cray v Ramsgate; Dartford v Deal; Faversham v Hythe, Folkestone Invicta v Whistable, Furness v Tunbridge Wells; Greenwich v Crockenhill; Herne Bay v Sheppey; Slade Green v Chatham

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury v Tuffley; Burnham v Fairford; Cirencester v Swindon Supermarine; *Didcot* v North Leigh; Endsleigh v Almondsbury; Highworth v Carterton; Kintbury v Brackley; Shortwood v Bicester

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v Raunds; Bourne v Cogenhoe, Desborough v Kempston, Eynesbury v Holbeach; Newport Pagnell v St. Neots; Northampton Spencer v Stotfold; Potton v Long Buckby; Stamford v Spalding; Wellingborough v S and L Corby; Wootton v Mirrlees Blackstone.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND FOOTBALL ALLIANCE: Blakenhall v Chasetown; Boldmere St M v Halesowen H, Hinckley Athletic v W Mid Police, Oldbury U v Rushall O; Sandwell v Barwell, Shepshed D v Willenhall; Shifnal T v Rocester; Stapenhill v Knypersley V; Stratford T v Bolehall S.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch Villa v Bloxwich; Highgate v Kings Heath; Meir KA v Ansells; Northfield v Chelmsley; Olton Royale v Wellesbourne; Southam v Coleshill; Studley BKL v Coventry Sphinx; Upton v Shirley. Challenge Vase: Third round: W Midland Police Res v Chelsly Hay

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Cradley Town v Wednesfield; Hill Top R v Stafford T, Lichfield C v Malvern T; Lye Town v Bloxwich S, Pelsall V v Ettingshall Ht; Tividale v Stourport S, Walsall Wood v Darlaston; Westfields v Gornal A; Wolverhampton C v Brierley Hill T

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Goole; Denaby v Belper Town; Glasshoughton Welfare v Hallam, Hucknall v Pickering; Liversedge v Ashfield; Maltby MW v Stocksbridge PS; North Ferriby v Ossett Town, Ossett Albion v Arnold; Sheffield v Brigg Town; Thackley v Hatfield Main. Presidents Cup: Fourth round: Hatfield Main v Selby; Liversedge v Brigg Town; Maltby MW v Denaby

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers v Prescot; Bootle v Darwen; Burscough v Trafford; Clitheroe v Salford; Flixton v Nantwich; Glossop North End v Chadderton; Holker Old Boys v Rossendale; Kidsgrove v Eastwood H; Mossley v Newcastle Town, Penrith v Skelmersdale; St Helens v Maine Road

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham v Dunston Federation; Chester-le-Street v Guisborough, Eppleton CW v Consett; Ferryhill v Bedlington Terriers; Murton v Whitby, Peterlee v Stockton; RTM Newcastle v Shildon; Seaham Red Star v West Auckland; Tow Law v Crook; Whickham v Durham.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Portsmouth.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Derry v Shamrock (7.30); Drogheda v Cork (7.45); Sligo v Shelbourne (7.30).

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor v Linfield; Cliftonville v Glentoran; Crusaders v Glenavon; Portadown v Ards.

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Postponed: First division: Arsenal v Charlton Ath; Cambridge Utd v Chelsea; Millwall v Norwich, Portsmouth v Ipswich; QPR v Southend, Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham, Watford v Gillingham; West Ham v Leyton Orient.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Third round: Lloyds Bank v West Wickham; Old Tiffinian v Carshalton; Hampstead Heathens v Old Tenisonians; Bank Of England v Old Ignatians, Old Lyonian v Wake Green, Old Actonians Assoc v Old Suttonians; Ulysses v Civil Service; Barclays Bank v Polytechnic.

FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round proper: Liverpool v Sheffield Utd.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Bradfieldians v Foresters; Brentwoods v Aldenhamians; Carthusians v Chigwellians; Premier division: Etonians v Cholmeleians, Malvernians v Lancing. First division: *Haberdashers v Haileyburians.* Harrovians v Wellingburians; Wykehamists v Ardinians

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardinal Manning v O Hamptonians, Glyn v Clapham, Latymer v O Isleworthians, O Danes v O Aloysians. Senior first division: O Kingsburians v Shene; O Salvatorians v O Vaughanians, O Tenisonians Res v Chertsey; Phoenix v O Manorians

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: East Barnet OG v Nat West Bank, Kew Association v Winchmore Hill, O Esthameians v Crouch End vampires; South Bank v Norsemen. Second division: Midland Bank v Lloyds Bank, O Latymerians v O Bromleians; O Parmiterians v O Parkonians, O Stationers v Alexandra Park. Third division: Alleyn OB v Merton, Broomfield v Ibis; Civil Service v Brentham, O Salesians v Southgate Olympic. Reigate Priory v O Westminster Citizens

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Albanian v O Grammarians; Nottsborough v Parkfield; O Owens v Hale End Ath. Southgate County v Witan. Senior two: City of London v UCL Academicals; Hadley v *O Finchleians. Honourable Artillery Co v* Mill Hill Village; O Bealonians v Corinthian Cas. Wandsworth Bor v O Woodhouseians

SCHOOLS MATCHES (Kick-off 10.30am unless stated): International under-15 Trial: England XI v Lancashire under-16. English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Middlesbrough v W Bromwich. FA Premier League under-19 Trophy: Merseyside v Durham (1.0). London Cup: Essex v Bucks (11.0); Suffolk v Inner London (10.45). Essex Smeathers Trophy: Havering v Waltham Forest (10.0). English Haigh Trophy: North Kent v Brighton. Shaw Cup: Norwich v Yarmouth. Meeson Trophy: E Berks v Oxford. Cobbins Cup: Semi-finals: Nottingham v Worksop. Mansfield v S Notts. Green Cup: Sefton v Trafford. Bower Cup: Brent v Barnet. Crisp Shield: Barking v Hackney. Charlton Cup: Basingstoke v Poole; Gosport v Isle of Wight; Portsmouth v Aldershot; Southampton v Havant. English Snickers under-19 Trophy: York Coast College, Middlesborough v St Marys SFC. Scarborough; St Clement Danes, Herts v St Francis Xavier, Inner London; King Alfreds, Oxon v Bournside, Gloucester. English Goodyear under-16 Trophy: Moorside HS, Gtr Manchester v St Wilfreds HS, Merseyside: St Thomas More, Middlesex v Welling, Kent; Heart of England; W Midlands v Nicholas Chamberlaine, Warwickshire (10.0). Newland School, Cleveland v Farringdon School, Durham. Inter-Association: Harrow v Luton. Leeds v York; Swindon v Vale of White Horse. Welsh Shield: Ynys Mon v St Helens.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Fourth round
Castleford v St Helens (3.05)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Heworth v Woolston (2.30); Lock Lane v Dudley Hill (2.30); Saddleworth v Millom (2.30). Postponed: Egremont v Hemel Hempstead

HOCKEY

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians v Spencer; Ashford v Lewes, Beckenham v High Wycombe: Bournemouth v Old Walcountians; Fareham v Woking; Gore Court v Wokingham: Maidenhead v Wimbledon; Old Kingstonians v Newbury; Oxford Hawks v Chichester; Winchester v Lions. Hampshire/Surrey: Andover v Southampton, Basingstoke v Old Mid Whitgiftians; Blandford v Oxshott. Cheam v Camberley, Dulwich v Old Edwardians; London University v Barnes; Old Cranleighans v Purley; Old Whitgiftians v Solent HC; Oxted v Epsom, Petersfield v Walton and Weybridge. Kent/Sussex: Belvedere v Worthing; Bexley Invicta v Blackheath, Crawley v Brighton; Herne Bay v Bexleyheath; Horsham v Sevenoaks; Marden Russets v Tulse Hill, Middleton v *Tunbridge Wells, Old Bordenians v Old* Beccehamians; Old Holcombeians v Mid Sussex; Old Williamsonians v Bognor. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v Marlow, ETESSA v Bracknell. Milton Keynes v Mill Hill; NPL v Hayes; OMT v Hendon. PHC Chiswick v HCC, Ramgarhia v Harrow; Richings Park v Eastcote; Staines v Headington, Sunbury v City Of Oxford.

DTZ MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich v North Notts: Harborne v Hampton-in-Arden, Khalsa v Bridgnorth; Loughborough Student v John Player: Nottingham v Belper

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding v Sheffield Bankers, Formby v Norton, Harrogate v Neston, Southport v Timperley. Warrington v Halifax. Second Division: Alderley Edge v Springfields; Blackburn v Northern, Disley v Bowdon; Knutsford v Stockton; Oxton v Swalwell; Tynemouth v York; Wigan v Ramgarhia.

CLUB MATCHES: Beeston v Barford T; Hull v Grange, Surbiton v Indian Gym, Teddington v Harleston M.

EUROPEAN WOMEN'S INDOOR TOURNAMENT *(Kelvin Hall, Glasgow)*

ENGLISH WOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE: Play-offs (Morsem SC, Slough).

SOUTH LEAGUE: Camberley v Hendon, City of Portsmouth v Worthing; Dulwich v Winchester; Hampstead v West Witney; Southampton v Winchmore Hill

CLUB MATCHES: Bedans v Newcastle, Belper v Peverit; Bexleyheath v Copdock; Blackburn v Doncaster, Crimson R v Poynton, Ealing v Bracknell; Old Howardians v Llan and Llan, Pontypridd v Carmarthen

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby v Doncaster (8.0), Hemel v Birmingham (7.30); Thames Valley v Manchester (8.0); Worthing v Leicester (8.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Cardiff v Solent; Mid-Sussex v Brixton, Nottingham v Crystal Palace; Oldham and Rochdale v Plymouth; Ware v Bury. Women: First division: Barking and Dagenham v Northampton, Ipswich v Nottingham; Plymouth City v Spelthorne; Thames Valley v Rhondda.

VOLLEYBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Wessex v Solent (5.45). Women: First division: Leeds v Britannia Music City (4.30); Loughborough v Sheffield Wednesday (4.30).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

Tour match
Pontypridd v New South Wales

Pilkington Cup
Fifth round
Bedford v Bristol P
Leeds v London Irish (2.15)
*Leicester v Saracens (3.0)
Newcastle v Harlequins (2.15) P
Nottingham v Gloucester (3.0) P
Wakefield v Bath
West Hartlepool v Coventry (3.0) P
Winnington Park v Wasps

PILKINGTON SHIELD: Sixth round: North: North Shields v Ledbury; Old Anselmians v Newton-le-Willows, Upton-upon-Severn v Wellingborough Old Grammarians; Yardley and District v Medicals. South: Hadleigh v Enfield Ignatians, Helston v Folkestone; Old Bristolians v Old Ashmolean, Old Centralians v Battersea Ironsides

CIS county championship
South
Semi-final
Middlesex v Surrey
(at O Merchant Taylors') P

Courage clubs championship
Second division
Moseley v Northampton (3.0) P

Heineken League
Second division
Abercynon v Llanharan
Bonymaen v Caerphilly
Pontypool v Maesteg

THIRD DIVISION: Glamorgan Wndrs v Tredegar; Kenfig Hill v Blackwood; Mountain Ash v Cardiff Inst; Narberth v Penarth, Pyle v Blaina; Tondu v Builth Wells.

Tennents Regional League
East one
Currie v Musselburgh (2.0)
Haddington v Boroughmuir (2.0)
Preston Lodge v Edinburgh Wndrs (2.0)
Watsonians v Biggar (2.0)

East two
Edinburgh Acads v Dundee HSFP (2.0)
Grangemouth v Heriot's FP (2.0)
Kirkcaldy v Corstorphine (2.0)
Stewart's Mel FP v Gordonians (2.0)

South
Gala v Langholm (2.0)
Hawick v Peebles (2.0)
Jed-Forest v Selkirk (2.0)
Melrose v Kelso (2.0)

West
Glasgow H K v Glasgow Acads (2.0)
Glasgow Southern v Ayr (2.0)
Kilmarnock v West of Scotland (2.0)
Wigtownshire v Stirling County (2.0)

Club matches
Askeans v Havant C
Birmingham v Birkenhead Park C
Camborne v Penryn
Cambridge Univ v Richmond (3.0)
Cardiff v Newport C
Cheltenham v Gloucester OB
Fylde v Broughton Park
Henley v Bath Utd
Hull Ionians v Sale
Kendal v Hartlepool Rovers (2.15)
Liverpool St Helens v Harrogate (2.15)
Llanelli v Dunvant
London Scottish v Camberley C
London Welsh v Newbridge (2.15)
Morley v Northern (3.0)
North Walsham v Southend (2.15) C
Penzance v Redruth
Plymouth v Nuneaton
Rotherham v Orrell
Sandal v Tynedale (2.15)
Sheffield v Manchester
South Wales Police v Treorchy
Swansea v Bridgend
Tabard v Wasps XV
Walsall v Rosslyn Park (2.15)
Waterloo v Rugby (2.15)
Wharfedale v Barkers Butts C

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Great Britain v Russia (National Indoor Arena, Birmingham)

CYCLING: Five Cities Track League (Fourth round, National Cycling Centre, Manchester, 7.0).

FENCING: Corble Cup (Spectrum Centre, Guildford)

LACROSSE: *Shepherds Friendly Society* League. Premier division: Cheadle Hulme v Cheadle, Timperley v Boardman and Eccles; Sheffield Steelers v Heaton Mersey; Hulmeians v Mellor, Old Waconians v Poynton.

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport).

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	35	65	fair	powder	fair	snow	1	26/1
(New snow covering worn patches, still hard-packed)								
St Anton	15	120	hard	varied	icy	cloud	-2	8/1
(Snow hard-packed on most runs: some icy/worn patches)								
Schladming	20	40	fair	crust	art	fine	1	4/1
(All runs complete and most pistes skiing well)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'huez	70	220	good	varied	good	cloud	-1	25/1
(Excellent skiing on all but lowest runs)								
Avoriaz	80	120	good	varied	good	cloud	-2	26/1
(Snow showers freshening pistes, mostly good)								
Tignes	77	135	good	heavy	good	cloud	-1	25/1
(Good skiing throughout Espace Killy)								
Val d'Isère	55	140	good	varied	fair	fair	3	25/1
(Mostly excellent skiing on quiet pistes: some stones)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	100	300	good	powder	good	fair	1	26/1
(Excellent skiing everywhere, all lifts open)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	30	50	fair	varied	fair	cloud	2	26/1
(Runs well groomed, most slopes ok)								
Klosters	15	80	fair	varied	fair	cloud	4	26/1
(Light snowfall on upper slopes: pistes softened)								
Mürren	10	120	fair	varied	worn	fine	0	8/1
(High pistes still good, worn/icy lower down)								
St Moritz	40	100	good	powder	good	snow	1	26/1
(Great skiing with new snow)								
Zermatt	25	135	good	powder	fair	fair	-1	25/1
(Good skiing after fresh snow: still some icy/worn spots)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

EXCELLENT
SKIING
CONDITIONS
IN
NORWAY

Plenty of snow has now arrived in
Geilo
Hemsedal
Lillehammer &
Gudbrandsdalen

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NORWEGIAN TOURIST BOARD
SKI HOTLINE

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Cup
Fourth round
* Sheff Utd v Aston Villa (4.0)

Tennents Scottish Cup
Third round
Whitehill W v Celtic
(at Easter Road, Edinburgh)

ICIS LEAGUE: First division: Oxford City v Aldershot Town

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: St Patrick's Ath v Dundalk (6.0)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE NATIONAL LEAGUE: Arsenal v Villa Aztecs, Croydon v Ilkeston; Liverpool F C Ladies v Wembley; Millwall Lionesses v Wolverhampton

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fifth round replay: Everton v Huddersfield

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Bronte v Sheffield Wednesday, Notts County v PTM Newcastle, Tranmere v Garswood St Helens. Southern division: Ipswich v Brighton and Hove; Oxford Utd v Berkhamstead, Three Bridges v Leyton Orient; Town and County v Brentford; Wimbledon v Southampton Saints

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Leopards (5.0), Doncaster v Newcastle (5.30); Sheffield v Worthing (6.15); London v Derby (5.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men. First division. Crystal Palace v Ware; Stockton v Coventry. Women: First division: Sheffield v Tyne and Wear

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Silk Cut Challenge Cup
Fourth round
Bradford v Batley
Carlisle v Wakefield (2.0)
Dewsbury v London Broncos
Huddersfield v Sheffield (3.30)
Hull v Hunslet (3.15)
Hull KR v Leigh (3.15)
Keighley v *Barrow* (3.15)
Oldham v Warrington
Rochdale v Thatto Heath
Salford v Featherstone
Swinton v Leeds
Whitehaven v Halifax (3.30)
Wigan v Bramley
Workington v Widnes

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: National Cyclo-cross Trophy (Final round, North Allerton, 2.0)

HOCKEY: National League: Second division: Oxford University v Slough (Tilsley Park, 1.30). Welsh Cup: Quarter-finals: Cardiff v Oystermouth, Monsanto v Neath, Newport v Pembroke; Whitchurch v *Llanishen*. Club matches: Blueharts v Bromley; Firebrands v Indian Gym, Hull v Boston, Surbiton v Havant. European women's indoor tournament (Kelvin Hall, Glasgow). Welsh women's cup: Quarter-finals: Cardiff Inst v Haverfordwest; Colwyn Bay v Newtown; Llan and Llan v Cardiff Ath: Swansea v Newport

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport).

VOLLEYBALL: National League. Women: First division: Manchester United Salford v Ashcombe Guildford (2.15); Orpington v Wessex (1.30); Reebok Liverpool City v Birmingham (12.45)

صكنا من الأصل

Richards plans racecourse school to complete Festival preparation

One Man goes straight for Gold Cup

By Julian Muscat

THERE will be no more public sightings of One Man before the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Instead, Gordon Richards, who trains the grey chaser, is to school the ante-post favourite at Carlisle or Newcastle in advance of the Blue Riband on March 14.

Richards's hopes of a rehearsal at Prestbury Park were frustrated when today's fixture, featuring the Pillar Property Investments Chase, was lost. He would gladly have traded the journey from his base in Cumbria, for a reconnaissance of the Cheltenham fences.

One Man is to complete his preparation away from the public gaze. Having considered the alternatives, Richards said yesterday: "I don't mind taking the horse south but there's not any need. I'm not bothered about running him between now and March. I'll give him a racecourse gallop and a school instead."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: BORN A LADY
(1.40 Lingfield Park)

Next best: Agwa
(3.20 Lingfield Park)

Richards has long insisted that the Cheltenham fences hold no fears for One Man's assault on the Gold Cup. Yet recent developments suggest that memories of the grey's abortive attempt at the Sun Alliance Chase are sapping his confidence. On that occasion, the horse made a number of mistakes before toiling home in ninth place.

Initially, connections expressed a reluctance to tackle the Pillar Property Investments Chase after One Man's runaway victory at Sandown three weeks ago. The horses needed a break, Richards maintained, so it was surprising to see One Man among the entries on Monday. That connections have now eschewed all other options suggests they were anxious to educate One Man around Prestbury Park.

Indeed, the icy blast could not have arrived at a worse time for Richards's in-form stable. In addition to One Man, he entertained high hopes for Unguided Missile at Cheltenham, The Grey Monk at Ayr and Addington Boy at Doncaster. Barton Bank, an intended opponent for One Man today, is in line to contest the Jim Ford Challenge Cup at Wincanton on February 22. Adrian Maguire is expected to recover from injury in time to take the mount.

The abandonment of today's fixtures at Ayr, Cheltenham and Doncaster takes the number of meetings claimed by the weather to 52 after efforts to transfer Cheltenham's fixture to Monday proved to no avail. This marks the third meeting in succession to be abandoned at the Cotswolds venue. A spate of valuable Cheltenham Festival pointers have been lost and the British Horseracing Board (BHB) has moved quickly to minimise the damage.

With the Levy Board's support, a new £15,000-added race, designed to compensate for the loss of the Cleeve Hurdle, has been added to the card at Ascot on Wednesday week. And three novice hurdles — at Wetherby, Huntingdon and Sandown — are to benefit from increased prize-money. Furthermore, the £30,000 Pertemps Great Yorkshire Chase, which was to headline the card at Doncaster today, will now be run at the same venue on March 2.

The BHB should be commended for its rescheduling powers, although a failure to act would have had the training fraternity up in arms. The removal of some "soft" races for high-class hurdlers has made for more competitive racing but there is now no scope for abandonments within the programme.

The return to competitive racing of Celtic Swing has been put back until the autumn. Peter Savill's four-year-old has recovered from the knee injury he sustained in the Irish Derby but connections have opted to bypass the Dubai World Cup in favour of a late-season campaign.

☐ Monday's cards at Plumpton and Ayr are in doubt. Plumpton will inspect at 9am tomorrow and Ayr at 11am.

One Man will not be seen in public again until the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Born A Lady can make class tell for Littmoden

By Richard Evans, Racing Journalist of the Year

AFTER learning the ropes with Mick Masson, Jenny Pitman and Charles Cyzer, Nick Littmoden made a bright start as a trainer in 1995 with 13 winners from a small string.

Based initially at Southwell before moving to Wolverhampton, he started with just a handful of horses but the success of his first full season as a licence holder has seen his string expand to 25. Although most of his winners have been achieved on the all-weather, he has yet to break his duck at Lingfield.

However, his luck can change this afternoon, courtesy of **Born A Lady**, who looks to have an excellent chance of entering the winner's enclosure for the first time since she won on her debut at Southwell last May. She rarely finished out of the money while keeping good company during last summer and the Crusader Claiming Stakes (1.40) represents a big drop in class.

Despite her not having run for 93 days, Littmoden has her primed and ready. "She's fit and seems to be as good as last year," he said yesterday. "Strictly at the weights she's 18lb right with the others. The only thing that slightly worries me is her draw."

Tom McLaughlin, who works for Littmoden, knows the filly well and the partnership should be able to overcome their unfavourable stalls position, on the outside of the ten runners, and the threat posed by Chemcast, who makes a quick reappearance after winning over course and distance on Thursday.

On a tricky card, where the moderate standard of racing makes the form far from reliable, the one "good thing" appears to be **Agent** in the Chieftain Median Auction Maiden Stakes (2.10). A close second in six- and seven-furlong races on the all-weather since joining Les Eyre, the Anshan colt can get off the mark over today's extra furlong and enhance the excellent record of the Yorkshire trainer at this track. Over the past five years his runners have made a 58 per cent level stake profit.

The 11-year-old Masnun still knows where the winning post is and got up in the final strides of a claimer here nine days ago to take his career earnings from 94 starts to above £110,000. With Roland O'Sullivan enjoying a rich vein of form, **Masnun** can confirm the form with Hand Of Straw and Sweet Supposin in the Churchill Claiming Stakes (2.45).

O'Sullivan has sound prospects of completing a quick double with **Agwa**, who rattled off four successive wins on this track two years ago and still looks a class above his rivals in the Comet Handicap (3.20).

O'Gorman: clear chance

With Banzhaf and To The Whire likely to set a good pace in the Challenger Handicap (3.50), I prefer the Bill O'Gorman-trained **Distinct Beauty**, who is stepping back in trip after winning over ten furlongs here last week.

The concluding Centurion Fillies Handicap (4.25) is a weak contest and although **Wild Strawberry** would ideally prefer further she may be able to defy top weight.

Wilson poised for winning return

Point-to-point
by Carl Evans

THE weather has, not surprisingly, taken its toll on the weekend fixtures and today's meeting at Badbury Rings is off, while tomorrow's at Ampton is subject to a 10am inspection today.

Prospects there are not good, but the **West Percy & Milvain** fixture at Alnwick on the Northumberland coast, which hinges on a 7am inspection, may beat the weather. Clerk of the course, John Taylor, said yesterday: "There is a light dusting of snow on the course, but we're hopeful."

Being situated less than two miles from the sea has helped the track to avoid the worst temperatures and, if racing goes ahead, it will provide a return to action for one of Britain's best amateur riders.

Noel Wilson, 29, broke a leg at Hexham in the autumn and, while plates and pins are needed to hold the bone together, he has been passed fit and will ride at least three horses for the Yorkshire livery yard of Tim Walford.

Wilson was an infrequent visitor to point-to-points until last season, preferring to forage for rides in amateur races under Rules. He won the 1993 National Hunt Chase on Ushers Island and considered turning professional.

Wilson, with 17 winners last year, earnt sixth place in the men's championship and Douce Eclair can provide him with a winning return in the restricted.

Whatever Wilson achieves, Alnwick is Anderson country. Kevin Anderson is the leading Northern Area rider and, while his wife Kate's string have been held up by frost, he has two spare rides, including Dundee Prince in the open.

TOMORROW'S MEETINGS: West Percy & Milvain (Alnwick, Northumberland): 3m east of Alnwick. (First race, 12.30) (7am inspection). Dunston (Ampton, Suffolk): 4m N of Bury St Edmunds (12.00) (10am inspection today)

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YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Southwell

Going: standard

12.40 (1m 4f) 1, **GOLD BLADE** (Mrs L Pearce, 13-8 fav); 2, **Modest Hope** (Mrs D Kettlewell, 8-1); 3, **Tempering** (Miss R Clark, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Chantry Beath (4th), 6 Father Dan, 7 Major Snugfit (5th), 9 Comtec's Legend (6th), 20 Junction Twentytwo, 25 Phanan, 33 Nebrangus. 10 ran. 6l, 4l, ¾l, 14l, 1l. J Pearce at Newmarket. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £1.40, £4.60. DF: £7.90. Trio: £13.10. CSF: £14.92. Tricast: £111.90.

1.05 (1m) 1, **SO AMAZING** (J Weaver, 9-4 fav); 2, **Sea God** (C Munday, 12-1); 3, **Indiahra** (F Lynch, 17-2). ALSO RAN: 3 Barrel Of Hope (6th), 7 Bakers Daughter, Komiamaite (5th), 11 Jaimaid (4th), 12 Bogart, 20 The Mestral, 33 Leedons Park. 10 ran. Shd, 11l, 2l, ¾l, 3½l. Miss S Hall at Middleham. Tote: £3.30; £2.00, £3.40, £1.90. DF: £53.10. Trio: £63.90. CSF: £28.13. Tricast: £185.69.

1.30 (1m 4f) 1, **GREEK NIGHT OUT** (Miss Diana Jones, 8-1); 2, **Mr Moriarty** (Mrs M Morris, 5-2 fav); 3, **Record Lover** (Mr V Lukaniuk, 3-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Alpine Storm (4th), 7 Streaky Hawk, 8 Ponlynyswen, 10 Sharp Thrill (6th), 12 Shotley Agam (5th), 33 Bitch, Pretty Scarce. 10 ran. 9l, shd, 2½l, nk, dist. J Eyre at Thirsk. Tote: £5.10; £2.10, £1.10, £1.40. DF: £8.50. Trio: £5.80. CSF: £28.66. Tricast: £69.63.

2.00 (6f) 1, **KIRA** (R Lappin, 4-1); 2, **Monis** (J Edmunds, 12-1); 3, **Awasha** (R Cochrane, 5-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Dissentor, 8 Sweet Mate (4th), 10 Tael Of Silver, Warm Hearted (5th), 12 Montague Dawson, 14 Aquado, Panther, 16 Most Uppitty, 20 Fiery Footsteps (6th), Grey Charmer, 25 We're Joken, 33 Fortis Pavior, Legal Drama. 16 ran. 2½l, hd, ¾l, ½l, 3½l. J Eyre at Thirsk. Tote: £6.30; £2.60, £3.90, £1.30. DF: £56.90. Trio: £61.60. CSF: £56.64.

2.30 (1m) 1, **KINGDOM PRINCESS** (L Charnock, 14-1); 2, **Green Gem** (J Tate, 9-1); 3, **Yeoman Oliver** (L Newton, 10-11 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-4 Molasa, 8 Threesocks (4th), 14 Bluntswood Hall (5th), 25 Belacque (6th). 7 ran. 1l, 2½l, 7l, 10l, 4l. M Camacho at Malton. Tote: £11.70; £7.30, £4.00. DF: £52.70. CSF: £114.78.

3.00 (7f) 1, **CHILIBANG BANG** (P Roberts, 8-1); 2, **Westman's Weigh** (M Wigham, 9-4 fav); 3, **Young Frederick** (T Ashley, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 3 Brigantone (5th), 11-2 Foreman (4th), 8 Shonlaine (6th), 16 Ghostly Apparition. 7 ran. ¾l, ¾l, 1½l, 1¼l, 6l. J Berry at Cockerham. Tote: £13.10; £3.00, £2.40. DF: £20.00. CSF: £25.18.

3.30 (7f) 1, **DRAGONJOY** (A McGlone, 11-2); 2, **Welsh Melody** (T Williams, 6-4 fav); 3, *Down The Yard* (C Munday, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Loch Style (5th), 5 Convent Guest (6th), 9 Hever Golf Diamond, 12 Ticka Ticka Timing, 14 Adler, 16 Kratz, 25 Napier Star (4th). 10 ran. 2l, 5l, sh hd, 1¾l, 3l. J Payne at Newmarket. Tote: £4.10; £1.10, £2.00, £4.20. DF: £8.60. Trio: £74.30. CSF: £15.71. No bid.

4.00 (1m) 1, **KINGCHIP BOY** (T Ives, 4-5 fav, Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, **Mislemani** (D Griffiths, 11-2); 3, **Pc's Cruiser** (P Lappin, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Genesis Four (5th), 10 Our Robert (4th), 12 Dia Georgy, Lady Silk (ur), 14 Great Bear (6th), 25 Aconorace, 33 Danka Lad. 10 ran. 6l, ¾l, ½l, 1¾l, 15l. M Ryan at Newmarket. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.90, £5.50. DF: £6.40. Trio: £29.50. CSF: £8.86. Tricast: £40.98.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £4,980.01 carried forward to Lingfield Park today).
Placepot: £385.70. Quadpot: £89.20.

☐ **Doncaster and Lingfield Park abandoned — frost**

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: 1.40 Impington

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

1.40 Red Acuisle
2.10 Agent
2.45 HAND OF STRAW (nap)
3.20 Pearl Dawn
3.50 Distinct Beauty
4.25 Uncharted Waters

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 1.40 **MONKEY ZANTY.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 Sweet Supposin. 3.50 **DISTINCT BEAUTY** (nap). 4.25 Sacred Mirror.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 5F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.40 CRUSADER CLAIMING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,736: 5f) (10 runners)

101	(1)	0600-01	CHEMCAST 2 (CD,F,G) (B Cassidy) D Nicholls 9-3	Alex Greaves	90
102	(3)	0-	PING-PONG BALL 285 (Newall and Co Ltd) T Watson 8-13	D McKeown	–
103	(10)	243534-	BORN A LADY 93 (D,G) (D Vowcock) N Littmoden 8-10	T G McLaughlin	97
104	(4)	50-4425	COPPER BRIGHT 14 (B) (S Selby) P Haslam 8-9	J Fortune	89
105	(6)	430300-	MONTRESTAR 127 (D,F) (J Pugh) P Evans 8-9	S Sanders	89
106	(5)	260-503	RED ACUISLE 10 (B) (Laurel Leisure Ltd) J Berry 8-9	P Roberts (7)	94
107	(8)	0502-33	BOUTON D'OR 14 (Mrs J Weston) P Howling 8-6	J Quinn	87
108	(9)		SUPREME ILLUSION (J Berry) John Berry 8-4	M Fenton	–
109	(2)	0443-46	IMPINGTON 10 (V) (The Sun Punters Club) W Muir 7-12	Martin Dwyer (7)	95
110	(7)	04616-0	MONKEY ZANTY 10 (G) (J Harris) J L Harris 7-12	P Fessey (5)	99

BETTING: 7-2 Chemcast, 4-1 Red Acuisle, 9-2 Bouton D'Or, 5-1 Born A Lady, 7-1 Impington, 8-1 Monkey Zanty, Montrestar, 10-1 others.

1995: ULTRA BEET 9-2 J Stack (4-6 fav) P Haslam 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

CHEMCAST beat Dancing Jack 1½l in 7-runner handicap over course and distance (AW). BORN A LADY about 9½l 4th of 10 to Lay The Blame in conditions race at Nottingham (6f, good to firm). COPPER BRIGHT 1¼l 2nd of 6 to Happy Partner in maiden auction over course and distance (AW) on penultimate start with BOUTON D'OR (2lb worse off) neck 3rd. MONTRESTAR 5l 8th of 13 to Lunar Mist in nursery at Haydock (6f, good). RED ACUISLE 2½l 3rd of 12 to Bolly in seller at Wolverhampton (AW, 5f) with IMPINGTON (6lb better off) about 1½l 5th and MONKEY ZANTY (10lb better off) 2l 7th. BOUTON D'OR 3½l 3rd of 5 to Last But Not Least in rated stakes over course and distance (AW) with COPPER BRIGHT (2lb better off) 7l 5th. MONKEY ZANTY best recent effort beat Maramo Street neck in 13-runner seller at Wolverhampton (AW, 6f).
Selection: CHEMCAST

2.10 CHIEFTAIN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £3,032: 1m) (6 runners)

201	(2)	052-2	AGENT 10 (BF) (M Gleason) J Eyre 9-0	D McKeown	99
202	(5)	6	ANAK-KU 16 (HRH Sultan Ahmad Shah) Miss G Kelleway 9-0	R Cochrane	–
203	(1)	00-0	HEVER GOLF EAGLE 7 (Hever Racing Club III) T Naughton 9-0	T Ashley (7)	72
204	(6)	0	TORMOUNT 16 (Cornelius Partnership) Lord Huntingdon 9-0	T Ives	–
205	(4)	4	HIGHLIGHTS 21 (Bloomsbury Stud) D Morris 8-9	J Tate	63
206	(3)	00-0	MOGIN 7 (Miss L Elliott) J Ffitch-Heyes 8-9	J Fortune	72

BETTING: 4-7 Agent, 7-2 Highlights, 7-1 Tormount, 10-1 Mogin, 12-1 Anak-Ku, 25-1 Hever Golf Eagle.

1995: WHACKFORD SQUEERS 9-0 A Clark (8-1) C Cyzer 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

AGENT neck 2nd of 9 to Brigantone in nursery at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f). ANAK-KU 24½l 6th of 12 to Well Drawn in maiden over course and distance (AW) with TORMOUNT 22½l 12th. HIGHLIGHTS about 14l 4th of 6 to Frozen Gold in maiden auction here (AW, 1m 2f). MOGIN 11l 7th of 11 to Princely Sound in maiden auction here (AW, 6f) with HEVER GOLF EAGLE 5l 10th.
Selection: AGENT (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wnrs	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
D Nicholls	6	28	21.4	Emma O'Gorman	32	159	20.1
Lord Huntingdon	35	166	21.1	Alex Greaves	8	42	19.0
J Berry	17	88	19.3	R Cochrane	44	251	17.5
N Callaghan	14	77	18.2	T Ives	19	111	17.1
W O'Gorman	28	162	17.3	D McKeown	18	108	16.7
Miss G Kelleway	9	52	17.3	J Fortune	5	30	16.7

2.45 CHURCHILL CLAIMING STAKES
(£3,132: 1m 2f) (9 runners)

301	(7)	0012-05	SWEET SUPPOSIN 9 (V,C,G) (Mrs C Rawson) C Dwyer 5-9-7	C Dwyer	96
302	(6)	45005-3	GALLIC VICTORY 14 (F,G) (A Sinani) John Berry 5-9-1	M Fenton	85
303	(9)	04305-6	SHUTTLECOCK 22 (G,S) (Mrs A Sanders) Mrs N Macauley 5-8-12	S Sanders	67
304	(1)	2000-13	HAND OF STRAW 9 (V,G) (Mrs L Murphy) P Murphy 4-8-10	S Drowne (3)	98
305	(2)	6313-11	MASNUN 9 (CD,F,G,S) (I Page) R O'Sullivan 11-8-9	A Clark	99
306	(9)	000206-	MANDY'S BET 8J (J Smith) N Callaghan 4-8-2	J F Egan	–
307	(3)	050656-	PINE ESSENCE 40 (D,F) (P Meynell) J Eyre 5-8-1	T Williams	83
308	*(5)*	*35000-0*	*SCOTTISH PARK 17 (CD,F,G,S) (Creamhorn Ltd) J L Harris 7-7-12*	*J Quinn*	*77*
309	(4)	0-	LASER LIGHT LADY 486 (RM Racecourses Ltd) N Littmoden 4-7-10	J Bramhill (7)	–

BETTING: 9-4 Masnun, 11-4 Hand Of Straw, 4-1 Sweet Supposin, 5-1 Gallic Victory, 8-1 Pine Essence, 10-1 Mandy's Bet, 12-1 Shuttlecock.

1995: MEDLAND 5-8-3 D Harrison (15-2) W G M Turner 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

SWEET SUPPOSIN best effort 2½l 2nd to Mr Nevermind in claimer here (AW, 1m) with GALLIC VICTORY (2lb worse off) 9¾l 5th. SHUTTLECOCK 11½l 5th to Erm in handicap at Southwell (AW, 7f). HAND OF STRAW beat Faez 2½l in seller at Wolverhampton (1m 100yd, AW) on penultimate start. MASNUN beat Mr Nevermind short-head in claimer here (AW, 1m) with HAND OF STRAW (5lb better off) 1¾l 3rd and SWEET SUPPOSIN (2lb worse off) neck and ½l 5th. MANDY'S BET over 8½l last of 9 to Sudden Sun in conditions race at Amiens (1m, good). PINE ESSENCE 6½l 6th to Total Rach in handicap over course and distance.
Selection: HAND OF STRAW

3.20 COMET HANDICAP (£3,254: 6f) (12 runners)

401	(11)	600000-	AGWA 63 (CD,F,G) (I Baker) R O'Sullivan 7-10-0	D Biggs	98
402	(9)	000-552	ULTRA BEET 7 (V,C,D,F,G) (Pet Express Ltd) P Haslam 4-9-12	J Fortune	95
403	(2)	4440-20	INVOCATION 7 (CD,F,G) (R Kiernan) A Moore 9-9-11	J F Egan	98
404	(6)	20134-0	SQUIRE CORRIE 18 (B,G) (G Harwood) G Harwood 4-9-5	Gaye Harwood (7)	97
405	*(4)*	*35-3423*	*FORT KNOX 7 (B,C,F,G) (Miss C Markowski) R Flower 5-9-0*	*M Tebbutt*	*96*
406	(12)	0080G-0	LOCHON 24 (D,F,G) (J Lyman) J Eyre 5-8-9	R Lappin	94
407	(1)	330305-	PEARL DAWN 78 (D,F,G) (Mrs E Keen) G L Moore 6-8-7	S Whitworth	99
408	(10)	13404-0	JERSEY BELLE 15 (B,D,G) (D Poole) P Makin 4-8-4	S Sanders	91
409	(5)	0065-24	HALBERT 9 (V,F) (T Barker) P Burgoyne 7-8-3	P McCabe (3)	95
410	(7)	000305-	DESERT WATER 39 (B) (Mrs J Sell) J Bridger 4-8-2	J Quinn	93
411	(3)	00343-0	PRINCE RUDOLF 21 (V,D,G) (J Hennessy) Mrs N Macauley 4-8-2	M Fenton	91
412	(8)	0000-00	SHAYNES DOMAIN 18 (B,G) (R Flower) R Flower 5-7-11	T Williams	80

BETTING: 7-2 Ultra Beet, 9-2 Fort Knox, Halbert, 11-2 Invocation, 6-1 Agwa, 10-1 Lochon, Desert Water, 12-1 Pearl Dawn, Squire Corrie, 14-1 others.

1995: NORDICO PRINCESS 4-9-9 R Cochrane (6-1) G Oldroyd 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

AGWA 7½l 9th of 14 to Southern Dominion in handicap over course and distance (AW). ULTRA BEET 1½l 2nd of 13 to Milos in claimer over course and distance (AW). INVOCATION 3l 2nd of 11 to Soaring in handicap here (AW, 7f) on penultimate start. SQUIRE CORRIE 3l 4th of 10 to Friendly Brave in handicap here (AW, 5f) on penultimate start. FORT KNOX 1½l and neck 3rd of 16 to Rakis in handicap here (AW, 7f) with INVOCATION (3lb better off) 4l 9th. LOCHON 3½l 3rd of 8 to Cheeky Chappy in handicap here (AW, 5f) on penultimate start. PEARL DAWN 6¾l 5th of 10 to Friendly Brave in handicap here (AW, 5f). HALBERT 1l 2nd of 10 to Sharp Imp in handicap over course and distance (AW).
Selection: ULTRA BEET

3.50 CHALLENGER HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,673: 1m) (4 runners)

501	(4)	614-1	BANZHAF 23 (C,G) (B Pennock) G L Moore 9-7	S Whitworth	94
502	(1)	602-1	DISTINCT BEAUTY 7 (C,G) (N Yong) W O'Gorman 8-11	Emma O'Gorman	92
503	(2)	413405-	TO THE WHIRE 69 (C,F) (Pennine Partners) G L Moore 8-3	M Fenton	99
504	(3)	0600-1	SOVEREIGN PRINCE 14 (C,G) (M Tabor) N Callaghan 7-10	J Quinn	95

BETTING: 6-4 Distinct Beauty, 7-4 Banzhaf, 7-2 Sovereign Prince, 5-1 To The Whire.

1995: NORDINEX 8-11 W Woods (13-2) R Armstrong 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BANZHAF beat Bells Of Holland 5l in 6-runner handicap here (AW, 7f). DISTINCT BEAUTY beat Bath Knight 3l in 7-runner rated stakes here (AW, 1m 2f). TO THE WHIRE 6½l 5th of 7 to Arctic Romancer in nursery at Lingfield (AW, 6f). SOVEREIGN PRINCE beat Ravi 1½l in 8-runner handicap here (AW, 7f).
Selection: DISTINCT BEAUTY

4.25 CENTURION FILLIES HANDICAP
(£3,089: 1m 4f) (7 runners)

601	(5)	2630-12	WILD STRAWBERRY 9 (C,BF,F,G) (Computrace) Miss B Sanders 7-10-0	D Biggs	94
602	(3)	01400-6	ELLY FLEETFOOT 21 (G) (A Heath) B Meehan 4-8-12	G Hannon (7)	90
603	(4)	5/05055-	SACRED MIRROR 270 (C Brittain) C Brittain 5-8-11	M Larsen	90
604	(1)	550040-	UNCHARTED WATERS 109 (F) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 5-8-9	J Fortune	95
605	(6)	0305-25	NEVER SO RITE 14 (F) (J Gallon) D Arbuthnot 4-8-5	R Cochrane	99
606	(2)	221036-	ALL THE JOYS 92 (C,S) (Mrs G Gooderham) C Cyzer 5-8-3	J Quinn	94
607	(7)	204-465	SWYNFORD FLYER 7 (F,G) (G Pearson) J A Harris 7-7-10	C Adamson (7)	96

BETTING: 9-4 Wild Strawberry, 7-2 Sacred Mirror, 6-1 Never So Rite, 8-1 All The Joys, Elly Fleetfoot, 10-1 others.

1995: CARPATHIAN 4-8-9 D Harrison (6-4 fav) Lord Huntingdon 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

WILD STRAWBERRY ¾l 2nd to Sir Norman Holt in handicap here (AW, 2m). ELLY FLEETFOOT 15½l 6th to Tartan Gem in apprentices claimer over course and distance (AW). UNCHARTED WATERS 2½l 3rd of 11 to Hill Farm Dancer in handicap at Bath (1m 3f 144yd, good) with SACRED MIRROR (13lb worse off) 1½l and neck 5th, May 1995. NEVER SO RITE 7l 2nd to Erfono in handicap over course and distance (AW) on penultimate start. ALL THE JOYS 8½l 6th of 20 to Snow Princess in handicap at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm). SWYNFORD FLYER 9l 5th of 13 to Royal Circus in amateurs handicap over course and distance (AW).
Selection: ALL THE JOYS

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Ayr (first race, 1.40), Plumpton (1.50), **Southwell** (AW, 2.00).

TUESDAY: **Lingfield Park** (AW, 1.40), Musselburgh (1.20), Nottingham (1.30).

WEDNESDAY: Leicester (1.45), Windsor (1.30), **Wolverhampton** (AW, 2.10).

THURSDAY: **Lingfield** (AW, 1.50), Sedgefield (1.40), Towcester (1.30).

FRIDAY: Folkestone (1.10), Kelso (1.20), **Southwell** (AW, 2.00).

SATURDAY: Chepstow (BBC, 1.00), **Lingfield Park** (AW, 1.45), Sandown Park (C4, 1.20), Wetherby (1.10).

Flat meetings in bold

Camacho switch

THE cancellation of Ayr today has forced Maurice Camacho to change his plans for promising novice chaser Avro Anson. The gelding will now run at Musselburgh, Nottingham or Wetherby next week.

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Saturday portrait: Jerry Jones, by Oliver Holt

Infamous owner who has sacked his way to another Super Bowl

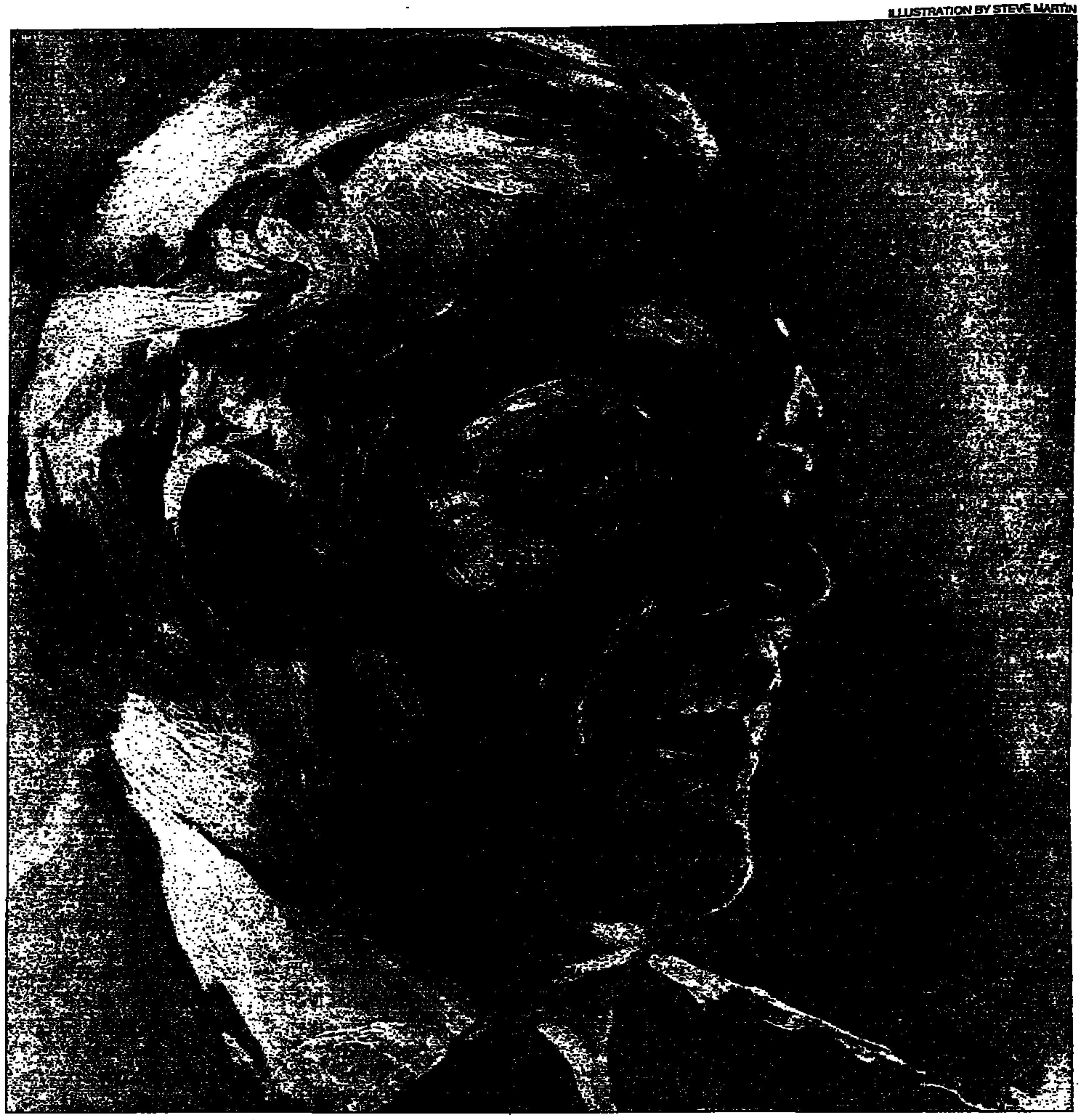


ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

Jerry Jones likes to tell people about the cartoon that hangs on his office wall at the Dallas Cowboys' Valley Ranch training complex. It shows two vultures sitting on a branch. One is saying to the other: "Patience, hell. I'm going to kill something."

Jones has never been much of a one for patience. When he bought the Cowboys for $140 million in 1989 and became at a stroke one of the most powerful figures in American sport, he warned he would involve himself in every aspect of the running of the club, "from socks to jocks", and promptly sacked the team's legendary coach, Tom Landry.

Two years ago, after his money and his trading skill had helped to transform the team from the laughing-stock of the National Football League (NFL) into back-to-back Super Bowl champions, he fired Landry's successor, Jimmy Johnson, after a glorious soap opera of disagreements about Jones's meddling in the running of the team. Imagine Sir John Hall firing Kevin Keegan at the end of this season with Newcastle United newly-crowned champions and you might begin to appreciate the impact it had.

Less than a month after that, he told friends that "500 coaches could have done what Johnson did" and then set about proving his point by hiring Barry Switzer, a man who had been out of the sport altogether for five years and who had never coached in the NFL before. Switzer was the antithesis of Johnson, content to play the role of Jones's yes-man.

This year, Jones's patience has run out with the NFL, too. He grew tired of the system that forced each team's revenue to be shared out equally and struck his own advertising deals with Pepsi and Nike, deals that conflicted with the league's agreements with Coca-Cola and Reebok and are likely to widen the gap between the haves and have-nots. The other owners are suing him for $300 million; he is counter-suing for $750 million.

There is, however, one area in which Jones has been obliged to bide his time. He may have thought he had seen the last of Johnson when he gave him a $2 million golden goodbye to go with his sacking but he has been unable to prevent his ghost from floating over everything the Cowboys do, haunting every minor failure with the promise of what might have been had he stayed.

When Johnson took over as the Miami Dolphins' head coach last month, the stakes suddenly got higher. If Johnson won a Super Bowl with his new team before the Cowboys proved Jones had been right to sack him by winning one themselves under Switzer, the Dallas owner would face humiliation. Well, the Cowboys will play in Super Bowl XXX in Phoenix, Arizona, tomorrow and only the Pittsburgh Steelers stand between Jones and the dispatch of one more prey. The Jerry and Jimmy Show has gone prime time again.

Jones, 53, looks like a handsome version of the prison governor in the Paul Newman film *Cool Hand Luke*, the one with the speech impediment and the nice line in "failure to communicate". He grew up in a rough area of Little Rock, Arkansas, where his mother and father would dress him up in a suit when he was a child and encourage him to walk around their store and help the customers.

> **'He is in it for himself, for the money, for the publicity and for the profile'**

He gained a master's degree in business from the University of Arkansas, where he played in a near invincible American football team and earned extra money by selling players' tickets at heavy mark-ups. He moved into one of the insurance companies his father had built up when he left college and, by the mid-1970s, he had become an important player in oil and gas, banking and real estate. He got out of the oil business just before it took a dive. He is nobody's fool.

He has used his business acumen to good effect with the Cowboys, too. He has recovered all but $10 million of his initial outlay and the team is now worth $190 million. When he became the owner, only six of the 118 luxury suites at Texas Stadium were leased. There are now 368 suites and most of them are booked solid until 2008. Every home game since the beginning of 1990 has been a sell-out.

But Jerry Jones is no Jack Walker. He is in it for himself, for the money, the publicity and the profile. The team that loves to call itself America's Team has found itself with America's Owner, hard-nosed, ruthless and power-hungry. Even his critics acknowledge he has exploited the Cowboys as a corporate entity more successfully than any rival owner has done with his team.

Popularity, though, has eluded him and condemnation is usually only a beat and a defeat away. Part of the problem was that, before he left, Johnson had managed to undermine Jones's reputation by poking fun at his attempts to involve himself in the signing of players and in decisions on which college students should be picked in the annual draft.

Johnson told a reporter that Jones had come to him after the 1990 season and told him: "I want it to be Jerry and Jimmy, not just Jimmy." Johnson also told friends that he had been under orders to pretend to be consulting Jones when the cameras turned to them on draft day.

This is the heart of everybody's problem with Jones. Most of the United States wants to like the Dallas Cowboys but they see a man at the helm who seems to be using the team as his plaything, a vehicle for acting out his coaching fantasies, without possessing any of the qualifications or having the nerve to be candid about it rather than using Switzer as a front man.

"I believe I could coach in the NFL," he said recently. "In fact, if I hadn't been so determined to be a financial success when I came out of college, there is no question I would have gone into coaching."

That admission apart, though, he protests his innocence vehemently. "I simply saw a knot on the tyre and, before it blew out, I replaced it," Jones said of the loss of Johnson. "He could have fired some heavy internal shots. If he had stayed, there would have been quite a Jimmy and Jerry Show here last season and the damage would have been horrible.

"People who think that it's meddling when I involve myself in the football aspects of this business aren't looking at the real world. Decisions about what happens on the field — between the white lines — are made by the coaches. I never second guess them. But there is also the financial area, which includes salaries and negotiations, the acquiring of players either through trades or draft decisions.

"These skills are not unique to football. Until 1989, neither Jimmy nor I had ever made a trade or a draft pick. But, if I hadn't been a pretty good trader, I wouldn't have had the money to buy the Cowboys in the first place. Having said all that, if someone still wants to call it meddling, screw 'em."

And so, throughout this week, while the Steelers owner, Dan Rooney, has remained in the background, Jones has taken the stage before Switzer at the team's daily press conferences, talking about how practice has gone and how he is mulling over which players may come and go at the end of the season.

On Tuesday, media day, where when the hundreds of journalists covering the Super Bowl interviewed the players at the Sun Devil Stadium, Jones took his place in the stands a few yards away from his quarterback, Troy Aikman. There were almost as many reporters around him as any of the leading players. The next day, Johnson held a press conference in the Phoenix Civic Plaza. He did not want to detract attention from the game, he said, it was just that there had been so many requests.

Before he left the stage, he offered one final analysis of his nemesis. "Jerry Jones is a driven man and an intelligent man," he said. "He is the finest salesman I have ever met, the finest businessman I have ever known. Jerry wants a lot of things. In fact, Jerry wants everything."

Smith gives Cowboys lethal weapon

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

THE supermarket tabloid that festoons the checkouts of most stores here is hot with the news that scientists have found the salty remains of Lot's wife in Jordan, that the crew of the doomed space shuttle, Challenger, cheered after their craft had blown up and that a new deadly virus can turn home computers into bombs. If it had a sports section, it would be saying that the Pittsburgh Steelers have a fighting chance of victory in Super Bowl XXX here tomorrow.

The party is in full swing now; hotels and bars that were empty because of the prohibitive prices until Thursday are full to bursting and sports stars and celebrities are pouring out of Los Angeles and Las Vegas to this sprawling metropolis surrounded by desert and huge outcrops of rock.

Many of them desperately want the Steelers to cause an upset, but the Dallas Cowboys are already acting like the victors most people assume they are going to be. They ride around town in stretch limousines and swagger into nightclubs, barely able to disguise their expectations of a straightforward triumph in Sun Devil Stadium.

The Cowboys are not quite the team they were when they won back-to-back Super Bowls against the Buffalo Bills in 1993 and 1994. They have lost a couple of key defensive players; their performances this season have been worryingly inconsistent and some of their biggest stars, including the quarterback, Troy Aikman, and pass rusher, Charles Haley, are less than fully fit. Their coach, Barry Switzer, though far from the dullard the media portray, is still surrounded by lingering doubts about his ability.

But they still have the most feared weapon in the sport, the prolific and apparently indestructible running back Emmitt Smith, who destroyed the Green Bay Packers in the National Football Conference championship game a fortnight ago and who always saves his best for big games. He is what the Americans like to call a "clutch" player, one who comes up with the important moves in crucial situations.

"Big players make big plays in big games," Smith said yesterday. "Whenever a big game comes up, it's time for players to step up and make big plays. Being in the sport that I love so much, I want to be the player to make the big play. That's my approach to it. I want to be the man that's going to make the big plays and make things happen."

Pittsburgh have never been beaten by the Cowboys in a Super Bowl and triumphed over them in 1976 and 1979, guided by their inspirational quarterback, Terry Bradshaw. Their slim chances of winning this year, though, rest on the ability of their pass rushers, Kevin Greene and Greg Lloyd, to jolt Aikman's poise, and on the hope that their quarterback, Neil O'Donnell, can continue to provide the team with the option of a passing game as well as relying on the running back, Bam Morris.

However, the bookmakers have got the Cowboys down for a 13-point win and Dallas are happy with that.

Buckfield leads Britain's race into space

David Powell meets two men taking a giant leap forward to further the cause of pole vaulting

NEXT Wednesday, the deputy head of Hounslow College will be leaving after more than 20 years at the school. At 49, Peter Sutcliffe is switching professions and taking a pay cut. He is going into ... er ... pole vaulting.

The job may have its ups and downs but, if there was ever a time to take the plunge, it is now. "Provided I can put food into my mouth, that is all I am interested in," Sutcliffe said. That and helping Nick Buckfield, and perhaps one or two others, rival the Russians in space exploration.

A year ago, the wisdom of anybody going into the triple jump full-time would have been questioned, but Jonathan Edwards demonstrated how a gamble can pay off. Buckfield improved enormously last year, his first as a full-time athlete. His emergence was the most significant influence on the decision of Sutcliffe to become full-time coach to a group of British vaulters.

"In this country it is rare but, on the Continent, it would be unheard of for athletes of this calibre not to have full-time coaches," Sutcliffe said. Until now, he has coached Buckfield in his spare time. Last summer, he saw his charge break the 14-year-old British outdoor record with a vault of 5.70 metres and today, when Great Britain meet Russia in an indoor encounter in Birmingham, his sights are fixed on the 15-year-old national indoor record of 5.45.

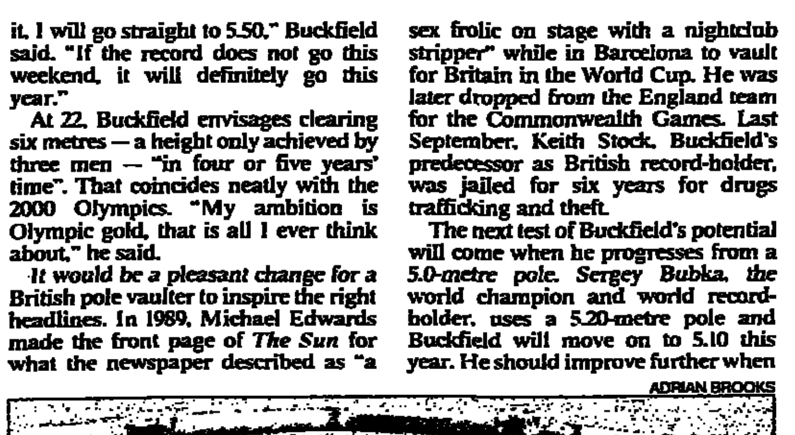
Russia possess three of the world's leading six vaulters and, although none of them will be competing today, the event is certain to be lively. "I will probably come in at 5.30 and, if I clear it, I will go straight to 5.50," Buckfield said. "If the record does not go this weekend, it will definitely go this year."

At 22, Buckfield envisages clearing six metres — a height only achieved by three men — "in four or five years' time". That coincides neatly with the 2000 Olympics. "My ambition is Olympic gold, that is all I ever think about," he said.

It would be a pleasant change for a British pole vaulter to inspire the right headlines. In 1989, Michael Edwards made the front page of *The Sun* for what the newspaper described as "a sex frolic on stage with a nightclub stripper" while in Barcelona to vault for Britain in the World Cup. He was later dropped from the England team for the Commonwealth Games. Last September, Keith Stock, Buckfield's predecessor as British record-holder, was jailed for six years for drugs trafficking and theft.

The next test of Buckfield's potential will come when he progresses from a *5.0-metre pole. Sergey Bubka, the* world champion and world record-holder, uses a 5.20-metre pole and Buckfield will move on to 5.10 this year. He should improve further when he becomes strong enough to use the stiffer pole.

ADRIAN BROOKS


A mural depicting Michael Edwards, the former British pole-vaulter, in competitive action adorns Buckfield's training venue in Sussex

"The heavier the weight, the more the pole will bend and the slower it will straighten." Sutcliffe said. "Therefore, the stiffer the pole, the better. It is like a catapault: the stiffer the elastic, the faster the stone comes off it. The poundage of the pole relates to how difficult it is to bend. It is poundage in relation to body-weight that matters. Nick uses a pole which is about 30lb above his own body-weight, compared with Bubka, whose pole is 40 to 45lb above his body-weight."

If Buckfield can make just a small *improvement, he should start earning* enough not to be dependent on the support of his parents and girlfriend. "Then I can say it's my proper job." Buckfield said. "I need 5.80 to 5.85 to get on the main circuit."

As a teenager, Buckfield was an all-rounder: Aldershot Football Club wanted him as a YTS player and he was keen on judo. "You rarely get someone in the event who is not good at other sports," Sutcliffe said. "You need to be a runner, a jumper, a gymnast; strong, agile, well-proportioned." And have somewhere to practise. Had there not been a sports hall close to his home in Crawley that caters for vaulting, Buckfield would have become a footballer.

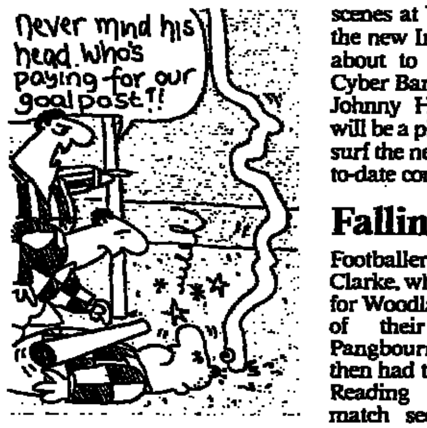
The facility at Horsham has colourful murals of famous British athletes along the wall: Christie, Cram, Coe, Ovett, Thompson ... and Michael Edwards. "Hopefully, I can win something and they will put my picture there." Buckfield said. With Sutcliffe's help, he may just succeed.

Amateurs enjoy traditional art of propping up the bar

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

I RETURN to my desk to find a letter from Roger Linn, chairman of Ditchling Rugby Football Club. "Last Saturday, our 2nd XV took on Tunbridge Wells 3rd XV," he writes. "During the pre-match warm-up, one of their props, either in an attempt to frighten us (in which he was quite successful), or as part of his normal 'getting the game-face on' routine, spent some time violently propping down against one of our goalposts.

"On the third occasion, he hit the upright so hard that it moved just enough to allow the crossbar to fall on his head. He received six stitches and took no part in the game.


Never mind his head. Who's paying for our goalpost?!

Many of the Ditchling players were so overcome that there *was some doubt as to whether* or not we would be able to field a full side. The game eventually went ahead, and the player we loaned them to make up for the absent prop scored the winning try.

"Do you think this sort of behaviour will prevent us from playing our full part in the new professional game?"

Nuclear fallout

The French flag is not flying above Flinders Park even as the Australian Open tennis tournament builds to its climax this weekend. Flinders Park staff refused to put it there, because they objected to the French setting off nuclear bombs all over the Pacific. The flag of Roland Garros, the French tennis headquarters, is flying instead. It is a good idea, but it doesn't go far enough. If we only ever fly the flags of morally irreproachable nations, we will save an awful lot of money on flags.

Net gains

Do you ever feel totally out of kilter with the times? Lines from a recent Wolverhampton Wanderers programme: "Nigel is very much the man of the moment behind the scenes at Wolves just now, as the new Internet Cyber Bar is about to come on line. The Cyber Bar will be based in the Johnny Hancocks Suite and will be a place where users can surf the net using the most up-to-date computers."

Falling reserves

Footballer of the week is Peter Clarke, who scored eight goals for Woodlands in the first half of their match against Pangbourne Reserves — and then had them wiped out. The Reading Football League match seemed to be going sweetly enough for Woodlands as they moved into a reasonably comfortable 15-0 lead, but Pangbourne Reserves, who had started with eight men, then suffered two injuries, and the match was abandoned. They will have to replay it at a later date.

□ *Meanwhile, I hear about a referee in Bolivia who sent the ball off. Reffing a match between two teams of ex-pros, he grew exasperated at the ball, which was old and out of shape. Finally, he showed the ball the red card and booted it into the middle distance. No, I don't know what happened next, alas.*

Googlee's turn

Latest news from the wacky world of mascots. The mascot for the cricket World Cup is "Googlee". He is a cricket ball wearing coloured pads, with a bat and a helmet, and is the brainchild of Amitava Chakravarty, who won the honour from 64 other entries. "The mascot is a reflection of the refreshing resurgence of a fine art, leg spin bowling, within which the googly is the perfect symbol for intrigue, unpredictability and the courage to be different," the competition organisers announced.

Kids' stuff

Cricket has just become a "core extracurricular activity" in Singapore schools. Dilbagh Singh, principal of Telok Kurau Secondary, said: "It is a great game that teaches boys how to be gentlemanly. Besides, the basic psychomotor skills can be developed."

Gambling mad

Some stats to ponder. In the past five years, the United States welcomed 500 new casinos. Last year, Americans spent $34 billion on lottery games, more money than on cinema tickets, plays and all forms of recorded music combined. Some 125 million Americans visited casinos, more than attended all Major League baseball and NFL games. Americans lost $40 billion in casinos, more than they spent on children's toys.

Just the ticket

Here's an idea that should be adopted at once by all English football clubs. Mallorca have promised to give season ticket-holders a refund if they fail to win promotion to the first division of the Spanish league. Supporters who buy tickets for the rest of the season will get a reduction if they buy a season ticket for the following season, if Mallorca are still languishing in the second division. "The promotion is unprecedented in Spanish football," their president, Juan Lacueva, said.

هكذا من الأصل

Wales should not ignore prodigal son laden with riches

GERALD DAVIES
Rugby Commentary

The Wales selectors should have found a way of incorporating Jonathan Davies in the squad to play England next week. If the English squad might be rejuvenated by the inclusion of an 18-year old, Wales on the other hand, might have done the same with a player 15 years his senior.

Welsh rugby has much to learn from Davies. He has fresh ideas and he questions rugby's possibilities more than most of the present coaches. If this raises suspicions about the abilities of the trainers, both in and out of Wales, then so be it. Evidence to encourage a greater faith in them is in short supply.

It should be hoped that Davies's exclusion is not based on any prejudice, because he is the prodigal son upon whom too much attention has already been lavished since his departure from rugby league. But his return to the national colours, which might be thought too hasty, has a sounder base.

True, having undergone a hernia operation, he has not played much and it may be in his best interests to lie low for a while. But it should not preclude his selection at some future stage.

He has played only twice at stand-off half since his return. Cardiff have preferred him at full back and at centre; although he has played rugby league in those positions he had not done so in the union game before. Presumably, Cardiff are working on the premise that, if he could perform there in the northern game, then he should do so with equal faculty in union. This is not quite the case. The easy transfer from one code to the other is a perception that is treacherously unreliable.

Certainly, one of the positions he should not contemplate playing again is centre. The feature of Davies which sets him apart from other stand-off halves is that he is a runner by nature. But the way the game is played, crowded midfields are no place for him.

Coaches want either playmakers who pass, kick and set up others to run — which Davies could be but he would be underselling himself — or those of the bulldozing sort, of which Davies is most certainly not.

His intuitive play, timing and awareness could see him play with aplomb at full back. Still the most underrated position, it is not always influential. The player is too often too far away. Davies likes to be where the action is. No, to see the best of Davies, he needs to lie at the heart and mystery of the game, at stand-off half.

Neil Jenkins and Arwel Thomas occupy the position in the Wales squad and both are fine players. Jenkins, for his part, is unfairly criticised, while Thomas has a career to make. The former is unjustly treated with unwarranted attacks on his play, such as the crowd's response to Thomas in the match against Italy.

Thomas kicked the ball as often as Jenkins might have done. Thomas, as he admitted, did not kick with the accuracy he wished. Yet the crowd warmed to him in the way they rarely do to Jenkins. Thomas's miskicks had a sympathetic response, while the crowd grow impatient with Jenkins. Sport is ever partial and not always just but Jenkins's contribution, in the way that he has accumulated points and the tackles he makes, is unfailingly impressive.

If Davies could not get to wear the national jersey on this occasion, his inclusion in the squad among so many young players might not only have proved instructive but inspiring. He is what might be called a big name.

He has not only played on the world stage and scaled some great heights, but he has also moved and gripped events in a way no other Welsh player can be said to have done in recent years. Young players would listen to him; he also exudes a cheerful optimism, a dose of which would be beneficial to Welsh rugby.

Having carried a careworn, hang-dog look for so long, nothing would become a Wales team more than to run out at Twickenham with a bit of a swagger. One of the most pleasing sights when Wales played Italy was to see the two Thomases, Arwel and Justin, parading on the Arms Park with a sparkle in their eyes. Fresh-faced and eager, they were not overawed by the occasion. An air of enthusiasm encircled them. They looked comfortable in the jersey.

Sometimes, it is instructive to look at a player when the game has briefly come to a stop. There was about the two Thomases a stillness that was not passive. There was a sense of something stirring: an impatience to be getting on with things. Not so much of the greyhounds panting excitedly in the traps but of the imperturbable athlete about to enter his blocks before the gun blasts of animation held in check.

There was an unfearing look of derring-do. Which is where Jonathan Davies comes in. He is one of them. He should be around to nurture such talent lest any coach knock it out of them.

RFU urges clubs to keep cup on schedule

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

WINTER, which has already caused a hiatus in rugby union's Courage Clubs Championship, has laid an icy finger on the Pilkington Cup today. Snow in the North, combined with extremely cold winds, has disrupted the best-laid plans and four of today's eight fifth-round ties have been postponed.

Yet the lowest and the highest of the 16 clubs involved remain optimistic that their matches will proceed. Winnington Park, having invested so much in the most important game in their history — against Wasps — will be desperately disappointed if a pitch inspection this morning forces a postponement, while Leicester are confident that their meeting with Saracens will go ahead.

In any event, the quarter-final draw will be held at Twickenham on Monday, with clubs required to play postponed fifth-round ties at a mutually-convenient date before February 24, quarter-final day. Already West Hartlepool are contemplating the possibility of playing Coventry next weekend, even though this would involve a clash with the internationals.

Both Leeds, who play London Irish, and Wakefield, who receive the holders, Bath, will check playing conditions this morning, but Wakefield have already appealed for volunteers to turn out at College Grove in case snow needs to be cleared. If the match does go on, there will not be the intriguing sight of brother versus brother on the respective wings.

Bath field Jon Sleightholme, their most recent international, but his brother, Andrew, has not been chosen by Wakefield. Nevertheless, it will be a welcome return for the England wing to the club he represented before joining Bath in 1994, in a XV missing the international quartet of Simon Geoghegan, Mike Catt, Ben Clarke and David Hilton.

Bath were amazed that Geoghegan came through Ireland's defeat by Scotland despite a strained hamstring, while the two England players, who are due to join squad training at Strawberry Hill tomorrow, when the team to play Wales will be named, are nursing knee and groin injuries respectively. Clarke's absence gives Eric Peters a rare first-XV appearance at No 8, though he will be buoyed up by his part in Scotland's success in Dublin; the way things are going, Peters will be able to count more representative appearances per season than in his club's senior side.

TOMMY HINDLEY

Jon Sleightholme, after an encouraging debut for England in Paris, plays against his former team for Bath today

Joe Miles, the Ireland selector, will hope that the game at Leeds goes ahead for he is due to watch David Humphreys play at stand-off half for London Irish. As a bonus, he will be able to see Richard McCartney make his debut in the second row for Leeds.

McCartney, the 6ft 8in Ulsterman, late of Sale, is one of several acquisitions made by the fourth-division club who, on Tuesday, plan the announcement of a ground-sharing scheme with Leeds Rugby League Club.

Humphreys enjoyed such a good University match in Oxford's colours that his international prospects were immediately revived. He played on the winning side in the A international with Scotland last weekend.

Leicester have a bone to pick with Saracens. The mid-November defeat they suffered at Southgate may ultimately mean the loss of their league title. They catch Saracens in a weakened condition for Brian Davies, their captain, tore ligaments earlier this month and his place at scrum half goes to Philip Friel, with Tony Diprose leading the team.

Injury also prevents Andy Tunningley and Jon Green playing, which gives Matt Singer his first-team debut at full back. Singer, from Neath, won his Blue for Cambridge last month. In the back row, Diprose moves to the blindside flank with Richard Hill, who missed the league defeat at Orrell where Davies was injured, playing No 8.

Leicester have opted for James Overend at centre, ahead of the more experienced Richie Robinson. Midfield is an area of continuing concern, particularly since Stuart Potter, the England A centre, will now miss another six weeks of a frustrating season after an injury at Bedford last Friday.

Wasps facing more than a walk in the Park

By David Hands

THE Rugby Football Union has made much of its proposed "seamless" game this season. If the expression means anything, it may be encapsulated this afternoon in the Pilkington Cup tie at Burrows Hill, in Northwich, between Winnington Park, denizens of division five (north), and Wasps, who were cup finalists last season.

A fortnight ago, players and members of "the Park" voted to retain rugby's amateur characteristics. If sponsorship permits, an end-of-season tour would be welcome, the players suggested, but pay-for-play is out. Wasps, of course, are at the top end of the scale, are in the process of establishing contracts for their players and have embarked on a substantial reorganisation of their ground, costing £2.5 million.

Winnington Park are a self-proclaimed family club, but that will not make them any less competitive. They have a scattering of players with first-class experience and expect to contribute more to first division rugby. Northampton have an eye on John Farr, their divisional scrum half, and they will do well to retain Paul Rees, the 6ft 7in policeman coveted by Orrell.

There will be little wrong with the preparation, either. Doug Hill, their coach, was a student at Loughborough in the halcyon days of the 1960s, when the colleges were an automatic fixture at the Middlesex Sevens. His career as a stand-off half or centre took him through Coventry and Moseley, and then to rugby league with St Helens and Salford, and he is now in his second coaching spell with the club.

His first unearthed the raw diamond that became an England scrum half, Dewi Morris. Having retired from first-class rugby, Morris has now been persuaded to help with training at Winnington Park. Typically, Morris shrugs off his contribution. "I just try to put into practice the things I learnt with Orrell and England," he said. "It's about getting the guys playing to a correct pattern, simple rugby, forwards knowing where to run off a back-row move and perhaps mixing it up a bit, because we have some quick backs."

Morris, 32 next month, denies he will play again other than in charity matches or veterans rugby, but Hill would love to entice him back as a focal point for a club which, if not an Orrell in the making, could find a niche in its Cheshire environs. "Northwich is a town steeped in football but there is a place for a bigger rugby club," he said.

"The momentum the Wasps match has given us has set the whole place buzzing and it has proved there is support." This week the pitch has been alive with cameras, a temporary stand seating 600 has been erected and a ground which normally accommodates, for a good league match, no more than 500 is an all-ticket sell-out at 2,500.

Success against Lydney in the fourth round has clearly given the locals the taste. The Park's first three cup games this season were all away from home, but in disposing of Lydney 26-11 they not only beat a club which stands top of division five (south), but also plays an all-round game like themselves — and, come to think of it, Wasps. "It will be our best ever day," Bob Dean, one of their long-serving administrators said. Who would doubt it?

Main falls short of required standard

From John Hennessy in Sofia

FOR the second year in succession, Britain will have no representative in the women's final at the European Figure Skating Championships after Stephanie Main, the British title-holder, could finish only 26th of 30 in the short programme here yesterday.

Only 24 skaters go through to the final today. Last year, Jenna Arrowsmith was 28th, which could be attributed in part to her age, 15. Main is four years older. It was an especially crushing blow for British skating, coming so soon after Steven Cousins's fourth place on Thursday.

After Main's unfortunate performance in the qualifying competition on Monday, her coach, Alice Fell, had said: "It won't happen again." But it did, and in spades.

She fell on her opening jump, a triple toe-loop, and, just as culpably, the compulsory double axel. She might have retrieved something from the wreckage with a triple salchow, but that was reduced to a double, by which time she must have been wishing she were back home in Edinburgh.

Sally Stapleford, president of the National Ice Skating Association, expressed deep dismay. "I thought she would be sure to qualify," she said. "But she skated nowhere near as well as she can."

Stapleford has been so concerned about the standards at the British championships in November that she had called for a meeting of all interested parties for February 8. "This adds point to the need for it," she said.

In spite of Cousin's laudable result, there are still those who who are critical of his style, claiming that he tends to be a little wooden. His reaction is a willingness to erase such comments, but he has no intention of trying to develop a classical style.

His failing was simply one of technical error. He had heartened his fellow travellers in the short programme on Wednesday with a formidable combination of triple axel to triple toe-loop. Trying to repeat the exercise in the final, he came heavily to earth and there was no way back in spite of a brave and successful second attempt at the axel.

IN BRIEF

Christie in fast start to season

LINFORD CHRISTIE, the Olympic 100 metres champion, cruised to victory at the Adelaide grand prix track and field meeting yesterday. Christie clocked 10.00sec and dominated the race. "I just want to go out with a bang this year," Christie said. "I'm very, very strong at the moment."

Colin Jackson, of Wales, won the 110 metres hurdles in 13.39sec despite running into a head wind. "I'm really happy to turn in a performance like that so early in the year," he said.

Champion pair

Bridge: The Macallam international bridge pairs tournament ended in London yesterday with victory for Eric Meckstroth and Jeff Rodwell, the world champions from the United States.

Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace, of Italy, the European champions, finished second with the leading British pair, Tony Forrester and Andrew Robson, fifth. The women's world champions, Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim, from Germany, also finished fifth.

FINAL RANKINGS: 1, E Meckstroth and Rodwell (US) 602; 2, L Lauria and A Versace 562; 3, A Forrester and A Robson 544; 4, F Greenan and G Mittleman (Can) 501; 5, S Auken and D Von Arnim (Ger) 488; 6, P Forquet and A Sementa (It) 479; 7, P Chemla and M Perron (Fr) 475; 8, N Smith and P Davies (GB) 472

King's delight

Equestrianism: Mary King, who led Britain to the team gold at the European three-day event championships in Italy last September, when she was five months pregnant, had a baby daughter yesterday. One of 14 riders on the short list for the Olympic Games in Atlanta, King said she intends to start competing again in April in order to be fit for Badminton, the main selection trial, in May.

Price's mastery

Bowls: John Price, of Swansea, who retained the CIS Insurance Scottish Masters title before Christmas, reached the final of the new Welsh Masters event when he defeated Andy Thomson, the world indoor singles champion, 1-7, 7-1, 7-4 in the semi-final at Llanelli yesterday. He will meet Richard Corsie, of Scotland, in the final.

Great Britain need two more points

From Sydney Friskin in Barcelona

GREAT BRITAIN start today needing two points from two remaining matches against Malaysia today and Belgium tomorrow to be certain of qualifying for the Olympic hockey tournament in Atlanta this summer.

By the end of today, however, the anxiety might be over. Canada, whose hopes hang on their match against Spain, need to win. If they lose, then Holland, Great Britain and Malaysia will join India and Spain in Atlanta and the rest of the play in the qualifying tournament will be academic. India and Spain qualified on Thursday.

Britain should have the edge over Malaysia, whom they defeated 5-1 at their last meeting at Bisham Abbey on January 14, although Malaysia have improved considerably since then. They should also defeat Belgium, whom they beat twice in Brussels early in December. In the tournament here, Belgium are last but one in the table with two points from five matches.

Along with Spain and India, Britain are still unbeaten, taking a point off India, Holland, Spain and Canada and defeating Belorussia 4-1. To have achieved all this after losing Garcia through illness and Halls with a back injury reflects much credit on the team.

Calum Giles lies joint-third, with Stephan Veen, of Holland, on the tournament scorers' list with five goals so far. Robert Thompson has three and Nick Thompson two.

☐ It has been confirmed that Great Britain will take part in a six-nation tournament run by the US Field Hockey Association in Atlanta from April 11 to 17, joining Argentina, South Korea, Pakistan and the United States. An invitation has also been accepted by Britain to take part in the Azlan Shah tournament in Malaysia early in May, which is followed by the four nations' tournament at Milton Keynes.

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	5	3	2	0	11	3	8
India	5	3	2	0	11	5	8
Holland	5	3	1	1	21	12	7
Great Britain	5	1	4	0	12	9	6
Malaysia	5	3	0	2	7	8	6
Canada	5	1	1	3	6	12	3
Belgium	5	1	0	4	10	19	2
Belorussia	5	0	0	5	3	14	0

Top five teams qualify for Olympics

TODAY: Britain v Malaysia, India v Belgium, Spain v Canada, Belorussia v Holland.

TOMORROW: Belgium v Britain; India v Malaysia, Belorussia v Canada; Spain v Holland

England lack sparkle but reach semi-finals

By Alix Ramsay

TWENTY-ONE goals and two confident, though not exactly stylish, performances were enough to put England through to the semi-finals of the European indoor women's hockey championships in Glasgow yesterday. The 10-1 victory over Austria and an 11-4 win over Slovakia were just the results that Maggie Souyave, the England coach, had wanted to set up today's showdown with Spain to determine who will finish at the top of Group B.

Before the tournament began, the aim was to finish in pole position and so avoid the favourites, Germany, in the next round. But that game plan rapidly became irrelevant when the seven-times champions suffered their first ever defeat in a European championship match, losing to France 1-0. Choosing to leave their top internationals at home to concentrate on preparations for the Olympics, Germany were caught out by a spirited French defence before regrouping to beat Denmark 10-1.

However, the fate of the Germans is not uppermost in the minds of the England squad at the moment. While the scale of their two victories was impressive, the manner in which they were achieved still leaves room for fine-tuning. Austria and Slovakia are not the strongest of opponents but England took some time to settle to their task in both matches.

Once into their stride, however, the goals proved easy to come by as Lorraine Marsden scored a hat-trick against Austria and Jackie Crook cracked in half a dozen against Slovakia, five from penalty corners.

Souyave was pleased enough with her team's performance but had reason to remain wary. "We are pleased to have reached the semi-finals but it is hard to judge exactly where we are at the moment because no one has been pushed to the limit," she said.

In Group A, Scotland began their campaign with a 12-1 defeat of Denmark and then virtually secured a place in the semi-finals with a 4-0 win over France. Wendy Fraser scored two goals with Susan Gilmour and Sharon Bissett getting the others. Scotland's final position in Group A now depends on the outcome of today's match against Germany.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Washington 120 Houston 86; Detroit 93 Dallas 92; Vancouver 106 Toronto 101; LA Clippers 94 Denver 93

EUROPEAN CLUBS' CUP: Semi-final series: Group A: Iraklis Salonika 71 CSKA Moscow 68

NATIONAL CUP: Quarter-finals: Crystal Palace 80 Leopards 75; Hemel Hempstead Royals 72 Birmingham Bullets 64

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester City Riders 67 Thames Valley Tigers 79; Newcastle Comets 85 Exide Manchester Giants 83

CRESTA RUN

MARSDEN CUP: 1, M Melcher (Switz) 2min 43.16sec; 2, Lord Wrottesley 2:48.43; 3, P Diethelm (Switz) 2:48.66

CRICKET

Third Test match

Australia v Sri Lanka

ADELAIDE (second day of of five): Sri Lanka, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 422 runs behind Australia

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M A Taylor c Kaluwitharana b Vaas	21
M J Slater c Kaluwitharana b Vaas	0
D C Boon b Pushpakumara	43
M E Waugh c Pushpakumara b Wickremasinghe	71
S R Waugh b Pushpakumara	170
R T Ponting c Kaluwitharana b Vaas	6
†I A Healy c Pushpakumara b Dharmasena	70
P R Reiffel c Gurusinha b Wickramasinghe	56
S K Warne c Pushpakumara b Wickramasinghe	33
C J McDermott not out	15
Extras (b 5, lb 9, w 1, nb 2)	17
Total (9 wkts, dec)	502

G D McGrath did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-36, 3-96, 4-181, 5-196, 6-326, 7-443, 8-467, 9-502

BOWLING: Vaas 42-11-106-3; Pushpakumara 34-4-128-2; Wickremasinghe 39.3-7-120-3; Dharmasena 25-3-80-1; Jayasuriya 13-2-41-0; Hathurusinghe 4-0-15-0

SRI LANKA: First Innings

U C Hathurusinghe not out	24
S T Jayasuriya not out	47
Extras (b 2, lb 6, nb 1)	9
Total (no wkt)	80

A P Gurusinha, *P A de Silva, H P Tillekeratne, S Ranatunga, †R S Kaluwitharana, W P U J C Vaas, H D P K Dharmasena, G P Wickremasinghe and K R Pushpakumara to bat

BOWLING: McDermott 5-1-26-0; McGrath 6-1-22-0; Reiffel 2-1-7-0; Warne 3-0-15-0

Umpires: L Barker (West Indies) and S Randell (Australia)

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four): **Brisbane:** Queensland 381-1 (M Love 185 not out, M Hayden 177 not out) v Tasmania. **Sydney:** Western Australia 261-7 (M Hussey 105) v New South Wales.

NAPIER: Tour match (one day): Central Districts v Zimbabweans (abandoned: rain)

FOOTBALL

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Third division. Postponed: Doncaster v Mansfield

AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP. Group B: Bloemfontein: Zambia 4 Sierre Leone 0. **Port Elizabeth:** Algeria 2 Burkina Faso 1

SCHOOLS MATCH: English Schools Snickers Under-19 Trophy: York Sixth Form Coll 4 St Bede's Grammar, Bradford 0

GOLF

SINGAPORE: Johnnie Walker Classic. Second round scores: 134: E Els (SA) 67, 67. **135:** O Karlsson (Swe) 66, 69. **136:** P Eales (GB) 69, 67. **137:** A Painter (Aus) 67, 70; D Clarke (Irel) 67, 70; A Coltart (GB) 69, 68; W Riley (Aus) 70, 67; I Woosnam (GB) 69, 68; F Couples (US) 68, 69. **138:** R Willis (Aus) 73, 65; S Ames (Trin) 68, 70; Zaw Moe (Burma) 68, 70; I Aoki (Japan) 70, 68; P Curry (GB) 68, 70; B Hughes (Aus) 66, 72; H Clark (GB) 70, 68; D McKenzie (Aus) 68, 70. **139:** P McGinley (GB) 71, 68; D Fardon (Aus) 69, 70; Choi Sang-Ho (S Kor) 70, 69; Park Nam-Sin (S Kor) 72, 67. **140:** J Daly (US) 67, 73; J van de Velde (Fr) 69, 71; R Claydon (GB) 73, 67; P Senior (Aus) 69, 71; A Hunter (GB) 69, 71; S Torrance (GB) 68, 72; P Moss (US) 69, 71; C Perry (Aus) 72, 68; D Dunakey (US) 71, 69. **141:** *C Plaphol (Thai) 72, 69; T Price (Aus) 69, 72; P Gunasegaran (Malaysia) 71, 70; D Bransdon (Aus) 70, 71; S Struver (Ger) 71, 70; M Harwood (Aus) 71, 70; J Payne (GB) 73, 68. **142:** Hsieh Chin-Sheng (Taiwan) 69, 73; R Green (Aus) 73, 69; F Lindgren (Swe) 71, 71; P O'Malley 72, 70; D Cole (Aus) 69, 73; J Senior (Aus) 71, 71; C Cevaer (Fr) 72, 70; A Sherborne (GB) 68, 74; B Langer (Ger) 68, 74; S Mori (Japan) 74, 68; P McWhinney (Aus) 72, 70; A Gilligan (Aus) 73, 69; Kim Jong-Duk (S Kor) 72, 70; J Townsend (USA) 68, 74; R Allenby (Aus) 74, 68; Chua Guan-Soon (Sing) 75, 67; J Milkha Singh (India) 69, 73

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: Second-round scores (play suspended with 40 players yet to complete round, US unless stated): **132:** W Austin 65, 67. **133:** J Parnevik (Swe) 67, 66. **134:** S Jones 67, 67; J Leonard 67, 67. **135:** D Pooley 68, 67; S Verplank 69, 66. **136:** B Lane (GB) 68, 68. **137:** A Magee 66, 69; D Martin 68, 69; R Mediate 70, 67; T Scherrer 67, 70; M Standly 71, 66; B Tway 66, 71. **138:** M Bradley 69, 69; C Byrum 69, 69; D Duval 68, 70; L Janzen 69, 69; F Perry 69, 69; D Pohl 66, 72; T Purtzer 70, 68; S Simpson 67, 71; J Wilson 67, 71. **Other scores: 140:** A Lyle (GB) 68, 72. **141:** G Waite (NZ) 70, 71. **144:** F Allem (SA) 72, 72. **148:** S Elkington (Aus) 75, 73

HOCKEY

GLASGOW: European indoor championship: Pool A: Germany 0 France 1; Scotland 12 Denmark 1. **Pool B:** Slovakia 2 Spain 10; England 10 Austria 1

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Hartford 8 Los Angeles 2; Boston 4 Tampa Bay 3; Montreal 6 Florida 2; New Jersey 3 Washington 1; Detroit 4 Ottawa 2; Chicago 2 San Jose 1; Colorado 2 Vancouver 2 (OT)

ICE SKATING

SOFIA: European championships: Pairs: Final positions: 1, O Kazakova and A Dmitriev (Russ) 2.0 factored placements; 2, M Woetzel and I Steuer (Ger) 2.5; 3, S Abitbol and S Bernadis (Fr) 5.5; 10, L Rogers and M Aldred (GB) 15.5. **Men: Final positions:** 1, V Zagorodnyuk (Ukr) 1.5; 2, I Pashkevitch (Russ) 4.0 (4-2); 3, I Kulik (Russ) 4.0 (2-3); 4, S Cousins (GB) 6.5; 16, N Wilson (GB) 23.5. **Ice dance. Positions after original dance:** 1, O Gritschuk and Y Platov (Russ) 1.0 factored placements; 2, A Krylova and O Ovsiannikov (Russ) 2.0; 3, I Romanova and I Yaroschenko (Ukr) 3.4; 11, M Humphreys and P Askew (GB) 11.0. **Women: Positions after short programme:** 1, S Bonaly (Fr) 0.5; 2, I Slutskaya (Russ) 1.0; 3, T Szewczenko (Ger) 1.5; 26, S Main (GB) 13.0

RACKETS

HARROW SCHOOL: Henderson British professional championship: Qualifying round: A Lyons bt M Briers 15-8, 15-6, 15-10. **First round:** P Brake bt A Lyons 15-8, 15-3, 15-7; N Cripps bt D Barrett 15-10, 10-4, ret

REAL TENNIS

NEW YORK: US Open championship (GB unless stated): **Quarter-finals:** W Davies (Aus) bt R Gunn 6-3, 6-1; M Gooding bt N Wood 6-3, 6-5, 2-6, 6-2; P Tabley (Aus) bt C Bray 6-5, 6-1, 6-3; J Snow beat A Phillips 6-1, 6-4, 6-1

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Moseley 31 Loughborough Students 56

SNOOKER

BLACKPOOL: Embassy world championship: Ninth qualifying round (England unless stated): J Burnett (Scot) bt C MacGillivray (Scot) 10-1; J Michie bt D Finbow 10-5; N Terry bt S Murphy (Ire) 10-1

TENNIS

MELBOURNE: Australian Open: Men: Singles: Semi-final: M Chang (US) bt A Agassi (US) 6-1, 6-4, 7-6; B Becker (Ger) bt M Woodforde (Aus) 6-4, 6-2, 6-0. **Seniors' Doubles: Final:** R Case and G Masters (Aus) bt M Edmondson and K Rosewall (Aus) 2-6, 6-3. **Women: Doubles: Semi-finals:** C Rubin (US) and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt N Arendt (US) and M Bollegraf (Holl) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2. **Mixed doubles: Semi-final:** L Jensen and N Arendt (US) bt J-L de Jager (SA) and J Hetherington (Can) 6-2, 6-4. **Boys': Doubles. Semi-finals:** M Lee and J Trotman (GB) bt M Hellstrom and E Rehnqvist (Swe) 7-5, 6-2; D Bracciali (It) and J Robichaud (Can) bt J Settergren and P Thomadsson (Swe) 6-1, 6-4

When is a shop not a shop?

Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

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STROKES OF GENIUS
PROMOTE ELS
ABOVE ALSO-RANS

SPORT

TENNIS 44
BECKER AND CHANG
PLAN GRAND FINALE
IN AUSTRALIAN OPEN

SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

Home Office may have last word in deal taking Colombian to Newcastle

Asprilla's arrival remains on ice

By Peter Ball

NEWCASTLE United will have to wait for a work permit before they can add Faustino Asprilla to their payroll. Parma's Colombian striker stayed on Tyneside long enough to have a medical yesterday, but returned to Italy without signing for the FA Carling Premiership leaders.

"You can't sign without a work permit," Freddie Fletcher, the Newcastle chief executive, said at a snowy St James' Park. "He has finalised some details, but now he has gone back to Italy."

The work permit should be a formality; persuading the Home Office's immigration department that Asprilla is a desirable resident may be slightly more difficult. "If the immigration department is not happy about his criminal record he won't be allowed in," a Department of Employment spokesman said yesterday.

Of the player's ability there is little doubt. "Kevin [Keegan, the Newcastle manager] rates him very highly, and other people believe he is one of the three best players in the world," Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, said, with a possible excess of enthusiasm.

He could bring the championship to the North East for the first time in 67 years, but if his wayward moods get the better of things, he could also contaminate the dream.

Rob Hughes, page 42

A member of the Colombia team that performed so limply in the 1994 World Cup, Asprilla made a significant contribution to Parma's success in winning the European Cup Winners' Cup and the Uefa Cup. Keegan obviously believes that he can help Newcastle to their first championship since 1927.

But, for the £6.7 million that will take his spending this season over £20 million, Keegan is also signing a player with a chequered history on and off the pitch. If the former will not interest the immigration authorities, the latter will.

Asprilla has a criminal record for illegally possessing a firearm after firing a gun in the streets of Medellin. As part of a suspended prison sentence, he is required to report monthly to the Colombian embassy. Although he was allowed in as a visitor yesterday, a firearm offence means his record will be examined closely before he is granted residency.

The incident in Medellin, where he fired the gun into the air, may be put down to youthful excess, but in conjunction with other incidents, including a violent argument with a bus driver and several car crashes, it makes a chequered history that may give the Home Office pause for thought. But Sir John is likely to press the case with conviction.

"I am excited like a child again to be joining Newcastle," Asprilla said. "I don't care about what is in the past, the slate is wiped clean."

Keegan, though, may also find that he is a maverick in the changing-room. He has fallen out with both the coach and general manager at Parma. Asprilla's complaints about feeling cold in his early days in Italy do not bode well for a long stay in the North East, but the honeymoon period may last long enough for Newcastle to win the Premiership and justify the transaction.

The outlay may soon be even greater, with a move for David Batty, the midfield player out-of-favour at Blackburn Rovers, still in the pipeline. Blackburn were at pains yesterday to deny that Batty had failed to report for training since a discussion with Harford last Friday.

"I don't know where these stories come from," Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, said yesterday. "He trained on Wednesday. With no game this weekend, the players have had time off this week, but I expect him to be there when they report back next week."

Batty has been unhappy since he was substituted against Ipswich Town in the FA Cup replay, and then left out of last week's game against Sheffield Wednesday. Although Blackburn insist that they have had no official offer from Newcastle, talks have taken place.

Blackburn are understoood to want £4 million with Newcastle valuing the player at £3.5 million, still a lot for a player who missed nearly a year with injury and has struggled to recover his form since his return. Keegan, however, sees his combative qualities as a useful addition to the squad, and his experience in winning the title with both Leeds United and Blackburn could be invaluable.

The Birmingham City manager, Barry Fry, is aiming to increase his huge squad by signing the Liverpool midfield player Jan Molby, who has completed a loan spell with his club's first division rivals Norwich City. Fry was so impressed by the 32-year-old Denmark international in his two appearances against Birmingham in the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-finals that he wants to recruit him.

Shrewsbury's hopes, page 43
Resilient Rudge, page 43

Asprilla, the Colombia international, is met by Newcastle United supporters who gathered in the snow at St James' Park yesterday to greet him as he arrived from Italy

Racing hit hardest as freezing weather takes toll

By John Goodbody

THE freezing weather has curtailed the weekend's sports programme with football, rugby and racing having to postpone or cancel fixtures. The worst weather has been in the north, where there has been several inches of snow, but frost and ice have caused widespread difficulties.

Racing has been hit hardest. Meetings scheduled for today at Ayr, Cheltenham and Doncaster were called off yesterday, bringing the total of cancellations to 55 for the season. Only the meeting on the all-weather surface at Lingfield survives. There will be inspections tomorrow morning to see whether meetings at Plumpton and Ayr will take place on Monday.

The FA Cup ties, at Coventry City, Ipswich Town and Swindon Town, have been postponed while Bolton Wanderers v Leeds United is in doubt. Although Middlesbrough had several inches of snow, their opponents, Wimbledon, began the trip north yesterday.

Reading were optimistic of staging their tie with Manchester United, while Southampton were equally confident of meeting Crewe Alexandra at the Dell. Tottenham Hotspur, West Ham United and Charlton Athletic were all expecting to stage their ties as were the holders, Everton, at home to Port Vale. Liverpool should be in action at Shrewsbury Town, while Nottingham Forest and Huddersfield Town have undersoil heating.

In the Endsleigh Insurance League, the first division game at Watford and the third division matches at Colchester United and Doncaster Rovers have been postponed.

In Scotland, prospects are worse. Although 14 Tennents Scottish Cup third-round ties are scheduled to be played today, only three of the grounds have undersoil heating. Scottish Football Association officials said yesterday that only six games looked certain to go ahead.

The big loss in the rugby union Pilkington Cup in England is the fifth round game between Rob Andrew's Newcastle and Will Carling's Harlequins. The ties at Leicester, Wakefield, Leeds and Winnington Park are still expected to proceed.

Premiership clubs earn European reprieve

Sugar: evidence was crucial

By Russell Kempson

ALAN SUGAR's cussed refusal to accept apparent injustice — and the combined weight of the Football Association (FA) and the FA Premier League — earned Tottenham Hotspur and Wimbledon a reprieve yesterday. The two FA Carling Premiership clubs had their one-year European suspensions quashed at a hearing in Geneva.

Sugar, the Tottenham chairman, and Ned Hammam, a Wimbledon director, spent 20 minutes giving evidence to the appeals panel of Uefa, the sport's European governing body. Rick Parry, chief executive of the FA Premier League, and Graham Kelly, chief executive of the FA, were observers.

Uefa had originally imposed the punishments because Tottenham and Wimbledon fielded weakened sides, and played at Brighton's Goldstone Ground, in the inaugural Intertoto Cup last summer. After hearing new evidence, Uefa withdrew the suspensions and replaced them with fines totalling about £180,000.

"The initial decision was made without the knowledge and information we had available today," Sugar said. "The committee members who sat in on the appeal admitted that had that information been available, the punishment would not have been so severe. We don't see this as some kind of victory. All we have done is get back to the position that 90 other clubs in England have anyway, which is the right to qualify for Europe."

Parry revealed that the fines would be paid by all the Premiership clubs, not just Tottenham and Wimbledon. "That was agreed at their last meeting," he said. "It was a collective decision and so the costs will be shared." It was also decided that English clubs will not enter the Intertoto Cup this summer.

"The board of appeal decided to amend the suspension and fine both clubs," Salvatore Cuccu, a Uefa spokesman, said. "This was based on new facts and the comprehensive documentation supplied. The board decided that the sanction imposed had been too severe."

Wales open their 1998 World Cup qualifying campaign with matches against San Marino — away on June 2 and at home on August 31. The programme for Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, then gets harder, with successive fixtures against Holland, the European championship finalists.

Gould and David Collins, general secretary of the Football Association of Wales, agreed the group seven schedule in Amsterdam yesterday. Wales conclude their games in Turkey and Belgium.

On the recommendation of Uefa, the Spanish league has agreed to cut its first division from 22 to 18 teams by 1998. It expanded unexpectedly last summer, after the Spanish authorities demoted several teams to the second division for rules violations and then allowed them to return, joining the two clubs who had been promoted.

Steve Stone, the England and Nottingham Forest midfield player, has signed an improved 3½-year contract at the City Ground. "I've been here 8½ years," he said. "Forest have stuck by me when things were not going well so I've stuck by them."

Phil Neal, the former Coventry City manager, has taken over at Cardiff City, the Endsleigh Insurance League third division club. It is his first job since leaving Highfield Road 11 months ago. Neal replaces Kenny Hibbitt, who has moved to director of football at Ninian Park.

WALES' WORLD CUP QUALIFYING FIXTURES: 1996: Jun 2: San Marino (away); Aug 31: San Marino (home); Oct 5: Holland (home); Nov 9: Holland (away); Dec 14 or 15: Turkey (home). 1997: Mar 29 or 30: v Belgium (home); Aug 20: Turkey (away); Oct 11: Belgium (away).

A commentary on state of the art broadcasting

Andrew Longmore on the advances that should mean more choice on the airwaves

In a week which brought the early blows between devotees of *Test Match Special* and the *Today* programme over priorities for the cricket World Cup, the historic significance of the words: "Welcome indeed, welcome to Barcelona" passed unnoticed. But, in a year or two, when listeners can choose their own football commentaries, flick to the horse racing or the rugby league or bask in uninterrupted coverage of international cricket, the introduction by Ron Jones to commentary on the Olympic Games hockey qualifying match between Great Britain and Holland on Thursday should be fondly remembered.

There was a select audience for the broadcast, the first international transmission by the BBC's new, experimental, Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) service launched late last year. In the studio, Charles Runcie, head of evening sports programming, hopped from foot to foot like an animated schoolboy. Martin the technician threaded tapes on reels with practised calm, the crew of the *Midday with Mair* show on Radio 5 Live looked nonplussed.

I sat in the corner, privileged to be the only listener in the country who really cared about the result. Fifty yards across Portland Place, Jane Futrell, in charge of DAB affairs, tuned into a purpose-built DAB car radio to hear the commentary. The set had been delivered only a few days before and was perched on the sofa, confirmation that these are still early days.

Sport will be one of the main beneficiaries of the new digital technology, which will allow greater flexibility of programming as well as better reception, and its place at the forefront of the £10 million development mirrors the pioneering contribution of boxing and football towards the growth of the moving picture almost exactly a century ago. The first DAB broadcast came from Blackburn Rovers' 2-1 victory over Southampton in early October, the second featured a complete racecard from Ascot.

In time, listeners to a DAB set will be able to chose their own sport. France v England from the five nations' rugby championship (if there is still such a thing), commentary from the FA Carling Premiership, rugby league, racing. They would all be available. At Wimbledon, there would be a choice of commentary from Centre and No 1 courts; at the Olympics, between archery and athletics. Followers of *Test Match Special* would have their own station for the duration of the Test and, in theory at least, supporters of Premiership clubs would be able to tune in to their own team every Saturday. The limits will be financial rather than technological, the pace of development governed by the manufacturers as well as the broadcasters.

The BBC emphasises these are still the "first of the first steps", but by March 1998 60 per cent of the United Kingdom should be within range of DAB transmission and the first radios should be on the market, cost as yet unknown. "Sport will be very high up our list of priorities," Futrell said. "But we have to do a lot of research first. Find out what people want."

Back in the studio, the first moment of crisis had been reached. As luck would have it, a short corner for Great Britain coincided with the sports news on Radio 5 Live.

Jones, one of the station's most polished performers, had to keep up commentary while listening for the cue for his report, then introduce his summary of the early moments of the game into commentary without interruption. He did so seamlessly — "you join us five minutes into the game and Great Britain ..." — and listeners to 5 Live caught a perfect account of the short corner (missed) into the bargain.

"That's the sort of thing we're looking at," Runcie said. "How the commentary fits in to existing coverage. How much you can get out of one commentator. Can he manage commentary and reports? At the moment, we're just expanding our existing coverage. But it is cinderella sports like hockey which stand to benefit from DAB as well as football. There is no way we could justify 70 minutes of hockey commentary at present. In future, we will have the space."

For the record, a late goal brought Britain a 2-2 draw with Holland. And I heard it first.

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هكذا من الأصل

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Why we should keep the company of wolves

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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996

THIS HOUSE AND CAR COST NOTHING TO RUN

By Jack Crossley

It is the end of a crisp January day. The setting sun is about to give up trying to hold back the forecast frost: Though masked by a cataract of drifting cloud, it is still strong enough to penetrate the west-facing window of 26 Blandford Avenue, Oxford. It is totally appropriate, and not in the least coincidental, that the dying rays have turned the window's stained glass image of the Sun God into a golden illumination.

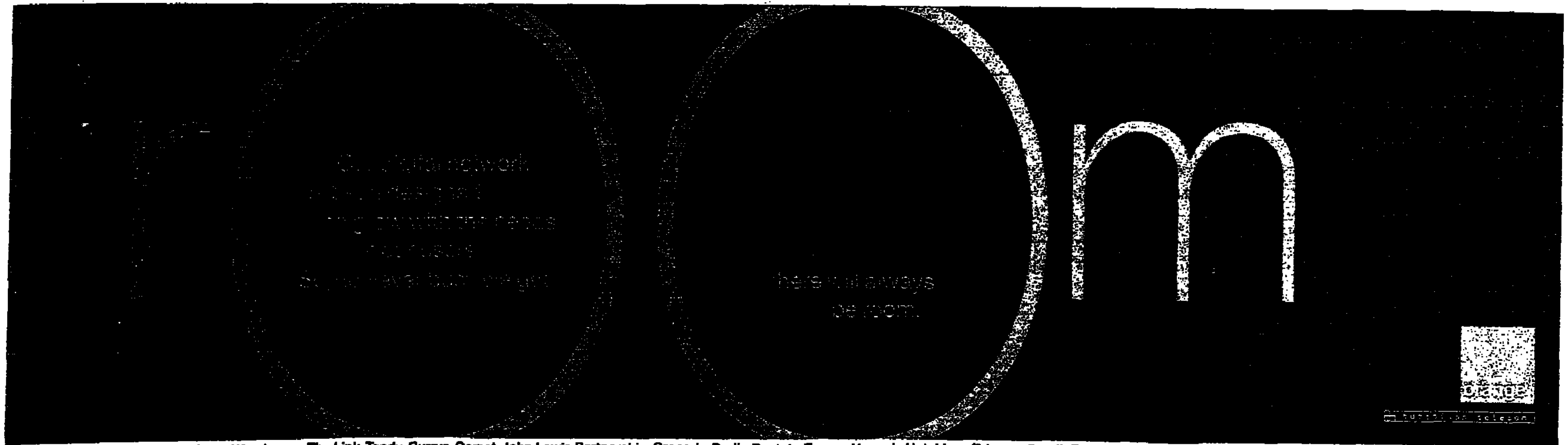
The Sun God is smiling, and so is Susan Roaf as she turns the key in her north-facing front door. While she has been at work, her house and the sun have been busy making money. Dr Roaf is the owner and, to a large extent, designer and architect of Britain's most advanced eco-house.

From the front, it looks like any ordinary suburban home, squeezed between other ordinary suburban homes, with just enough space either side to allow estate agents to praise them as detached and v. desirable. At the back of No 26 there is a south-facing roof tiled entirely with solar panels generating enough power to keep Dr Roaf's energy-efficient home warm, cook her meals, do her washing, provide hot water, drive her car — and sell power to Southern Electricity. The conventional homes in Blandford Avenue can face electricity bills of more than £1,000 a year. Dr Roaf's last quarterly bill was for £10.50 — but it came with a cheque for £30 to cover the electricity she had exported to the National Grid. Even last December, with the coldest weather ever recorded in Britain, Dr Roaf needed to buy in only £17.50 of electricity — and that kept the house on a steady 20C and fuelled the car, which was in daily use.

"Everyone said this form of energy efficiency wouldn't be possible with a house in Britain. But I was determined to challenge that, and it's working superbly," Dr Roaf says. "People forget that, even on the cloudiest days, we still get energy from indirect sunlight."

How is this achieved? Well, it helps if, like Dr Roaf, you are a lecturer in energy-efficient architecture at Oxford Brookes University, and able to infect others who can help with your own energy-efficient enthusiasm. Two years ago it was estate agents: could they find a plot of land suitable for a six-bedroom, three-bathroom house with a south-facing back roof? Not easy when a futher requirement was that it must be in the heavily built-up area inside the Oxford Ring Road. The next task was to identify and locate the world's most energy-efficient equipment and materials: kitchen equipment from Britain and Germany, triple-glazed windows from Norway, 150mm-thick concrete blocks from Gloucestershire, nylon wall ties from Denmark, Corsican and Scots pine from Sherwood Forest and Scandinavian redwood pine and North American hemlock. The house also has a hand-built, wood-burning *kakkelovn* ceramic stove from Sweden, a

Continued on page 3, col 1



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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Read Wilde's play, and you might conclude it is a melodrama with epigrams artificially inserted in the creakier gaps. But Peter Hall's production is a major piece of dramatic reclamation. With Anna Carteret, David Yelland, Penny Downie and (especially) a Wilde-looking Martin Shaw seamlessly in control, there is humanity, humour and timely truth in the tale of the rising politician threatened both by the appearance of the indiscreet letter he wrote in his youth and by his wife's unforgiving morality.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 8800). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.45pm; matinées: Wed and Sat, 3pm. ♿

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Why has a revival of a neatly carpentered thriller written 50 years ago and earnestly preaching socialism won almost every award in London, as well as several in New York? Why bother at all with J.B. Priestley's tale of a respectable family's destruction of an innocent girl? Because Stephen Daldry's superbly imaginative direction and Ian MacNeil's wonderfully evocative set transform it into a grand, gripping denunciation of the 20th-century's deadlier sins.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-494 5025). Evenings: Mon to Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; matinées: Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

JACKY TERRASSON His eponymous Blue Note debut found a place in many of the shortlists as the critics looked back on the outstanding records of 1995. A puckish virtuoso of Franco-American origin, he has the potential to become the most versatile and accomplished pianist since the controversial Keith Jarrett. Muscular yet poetic, he can slip into a funky backbeat on *I Love Paris*, sprinkle Debussy-esque harmonies on *Hommage à Lili Boulanger* and leap into quicksilver Bud Powell mode at a moment's notice.
Jazz Café, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-344 0044), Thur Feb 1, 9pm.

BARBARA COOK/STEVE ROSS Barbara Cook's waltz through Broadway and Tin Pan Alley history is currently one of London's best kept secrets. Do not miss her final week. Wally Harper's piano arrangements are as sumptuous as a full orchestra's, and Cook's subtle vocals lift even the more obscure numbers firmly into the major league. A favourite at the Algonquin and other Manhattan salons, the Cole Porter devotee Steve Ross comes to town with another bulging sack of vintage songs. He will be followed on-stage, later in the evening, by Patricia Hodge and Sheridan Morley, presenting their tribute to Gertrude Lawrence and Jack Buchanan.
Cook: **Café Royal**, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090), tonight, Tues to Sat 3, 9.15pm.
Ross: **Pizza on the Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273), Mon 29 to Sat 24 Feb, 9.15pm; (Hodge and Morley, 11.15pm).

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

SAMSON ET DALILA There is a slightly improvised feel to the Royal Opera's new year programme, with the management bobbing and weaving through cancelled productions and changes of cast, but the unplanned revival of Saint-Saëns's grand biblical opera is all gain: Sidney Nolan's sumptuously colourful decor, Elijah Moshinsky's grown-up production and David Bintley's rather saucy Bacchanale — not to mention "*Softly awakes my heart*" — all add up to a thumping good evening out. The Greek mezzo Markella Hatzianou sings the temptress, José Cura is the prophet, and the expert Jacques Delacôte conducts.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Tues 30, Fri 2, 7.30pm. ♿

DONALD COOPER

Humanity and humour: Penny Downie, Dulcie Gray and Anna Carteret star in Peter Hall's timely production of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*

THE MAGIC FLUTE There are few more uplifting experiences than a really good performance of Mozart's fairy-tale morality, and the English National Opera fields a strong team for the latest revival of Nicholas Hytner's fine staging. Alexander Sander's stylish conducting is the perfect springboard for exceptional singing from Janice Watson and Ian Bostridge as the very juvenile leads. Peter Snipp as the birdcatcher and John Connell as — in George Bernard Shaw's words — the voice of God. All this, and you can hear the words too.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300). Wed 31, Fri 2, 7.30pm. ♿

ROCK

David Sinclair

FRANK BLACK Joining up the musical dots from Nirvana to Green Day, yet still wildly different to both, Frank Black is here to promote *The Cult of Ray*, his third solo album since the demise of the Pixies. A performer of wit and substance, Black remains one of the perennial heavy hitters of American rock.
SFX, Dublin (003531 284 1747), Jan 27; **Garage**, Glasgow (0141-332 1120), Jan 29; **Riverside**, Newcastle ♿ (0191-261 4386), Jan 30; **Manchester University** ♿ (0161-275 2930), Jan 31; **Metropolitan University**, Leeds (0113-244 2999), Feb 1; **Leadmill**, Sheffield ♿ (0114-275 4500), Feb 3; **Junction**, Cambridge ♿ (01223 412600), Feb 4; **Wulfrun Hall**, Wolverhampton ♿ (01902 312030), Feb 5; **Bristol University** (0117-928 9000), Feb 7; **Pyramids Centre**, Portsmouth ♿ (01705 358608), Feb 8; **Astoria**, London WC2 (0171-434 0403), Feb 9.

A chorus of approval: grandstander Melissa Etheridge

MELISSA ETHERIDGE/JOAN OSBORNE In her element singing old Janis Joplin songs at the Woodstock Festival of 1994, Melissa Etheridge has revived the grandstanding style of the traditional female rock 'n' roll star. Lionised for her own songwriting by Bruce Springsteen and Randy Newman, she dishes out big, strong themes and sweeping choruses, splashed with primary emotional colours. Her current album, *Your Little Secret*, has been somewhat eclipsed by a new wave of solo American stars which includes support act Joan Osborne, who has been nominated for five awards at the forthcoming Grammies.
Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Jan 30.

DANCE

John Percival

SPRING COLLECTION A chance to catch up with what is happening in British contemporary dance: the Place Theatre and the South Bank Centre combine to offer no fewer than 25 choreographers across three intensive days. There are established creators such as Jonathan Burrows and Siobhan Davies alongside young hopefuls including Mark Bruce. The scheduling allows time to take in all six programmes for a unique cross-section of dance activity.
The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), Fri 2, 8pm, Sat 3, 1pm, Sun 4, 11am; **Purcell Room**, Sat 3, 3.30pm, and **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, Sat 3, 7.45pm, Sun 4, 3pm, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-960 4242).

SWAN DANCE 96 A two-month season of seven dance companies opens in High Wycombe with the premiere of *Crime Fiction* by Arc Dance Company (Fri 2 and Sat 3). Coming in February are Adzido (Wed 7), Aletta Collins (Wed 14), and the black company RJC in *Captured* (Fri 23) and the *Hot Shoe Shuffle* (Mon 26 to March 2). Then in March the Royal Ballet Dance Bites tour brings four more premieres (March 18 and 19) and the series climaxes with Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* (March 26-30).
Wycombe Swan, High Wycombe (01494 512000). 8pm; matinées: Feb 28, March 2 and 30, 2.30pm, March 19 and 27, 2pm. ♿

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

PARIS DOUBLE The Orchestre de Paris comes to the Barbican in the "Great Orchestras of the World" series, which perhaps flatters its status: over the years it has shown us its good points but also its sloppy side. Let's hope for the former as Semyon Bychkov, its youngish and personable music director, steers it through Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony* (Thursday), and a programme of Gilbert Amy (a British premiere), Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with Maxim Vengerov as soloist, and *The Rite of Spring* (Friday).
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Thur Feb 1, Fri 2, 7.30pm. ♿

Maxim Vengerov, violin, plays Mendelssohn at the Barbican

NYMAN'S BACK Half the musical world detests Michael Nyman's pieces; the other half loves them. They are loud, repetitive, mostly derivative and unsubtle — but they create a sound world that is unmistakeably Nyman's own. It usually helps if you have seen whichever of Peter Greenaway's films they originally accompanied. That will probably be the case here: the first British performance of Nyman's *Noises Sounds & Sweet Airs*. It is an opera based on music for *Prospero's Books*, Greenaway's free fantasy on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Singers Catherine Bott, Hilary Summers and Christopher Gillet join the concrete-blasting Michael Nyman Band.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Tues, 8pm. ♿

FILMS

Geoff Brown

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15) Has Pedro Almodóvar finally grown up? It seems so: Spain's most exportable director has made a film of muted design and sober feelings, with kinks just around the edges. Heroine Marisa Paredes is enduring a mid-life crisis over her work (she writes romantic trash) and her marriage to a Nato peacekeeper. This could be a recipe for caricature and farce, but Almodóvar treats the heroine's pain with touching seriousness.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720); **Gate** ♿ (0171-727 4043); **Renoir** (0171-837 8402); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366).

HEAT (15) "They're good." Al Pacino's workaholic detective muses, observing the work of Robert De Niro's criminals, who are robbing their way round Los Angeles. And so is the film, nearly three hours long but with few wasted minutes. The stars alone command attention: Pacino like a tightly-coiled spring, De Niro rigorously controlled as the dedicated criminal. Michael Mann builds tension, cutting between cat and mouse. Mobile camerawork and lighting create a Los Angeles of lonely souls, and several action set-pieces set new standards.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636), **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031). **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520); **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332); **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343).

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

SUSAN HILLER In a retrospective at the Tate Gallery Liverpool, Hiller reveals the continuity of her interests over the past 20 years. But the means she adopts never ceases to change. In a work called *Monument*, she brings together the plaques memorialising people who died trying to save relatives or strangers. But the most arresting exhibits employ video with beguiling immediacy. While flames flicker on the wall, a child describes Rembrandt's painting of *Belshazzar's Feast*. Then attention turns to claims, by television viewers, that apparitions appear on their screens. The flames grow larger, inviting us to discover hallucinations in their writhing forms.
Tate Gallery, Albert Docks, Liverpool (0151-709 3223), until March 17.

JANA STERBAK Last year, the Canadian-based Czech artist stirred controversy by exhibiting a dress made of fast-withering slices of flank steak. In a larger show at the Serpentine Gallery, only one exhibit seeks to shock. Called *Seduction Couch*, it is made of perforated steel and gives anyone rash enough to touch it an electrostatic sting. In a gruelling video work called *Condition*, Sterbak films a man burdened by a wire-mesh object on wheels. He drags the appendage round a deserted airport, and only casts it aside at the end. Maybe we can draw some comfort from this small victory.
Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London SW7 (0171-723 9072), Feb 25. ♿

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

PAUL SMITH TRUE BRIT Paul Smith is one of the most successful British designers of menswear, and has been chosen as the subject of the Design Museum's first major exhibition devoted to a single fashion designer. For him true Britishness has more to do with the traditional eccentricity of the British than with sportiness and understated casual elegance. The show includes a collection of videos of Smith's principal fashion shows.
Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, Shad Thames, London SE1 (0171-403 6933), Mon-Fri, 11.30am-6pm; Sat-Sun, noon-6pm, until April 10.

JOHN DOWNTON Was the Modern British painter John Downton (1906-1991), this touring exhibition asks challengingly, an "archaic misfit" or an "enigmatic genius"? There is, presumably, no reason why he should not have been both. He believed passionately that art had been on the wrong road ever since the early Renaissance, and set about putting it back on track by writing texts, such as *The Death of Art*, and by painting modern portraits in his own meticulously finished manner. Occasionally, in his taste for plump young women, he suggests Botero, but in the main he resembles no one, his cool, almost frigid surface containing, if only just, a volcanic force of emotion.
Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0114-273 4780), Mon-Sat, 10am-8pm; Sun, 2-5pm, until Feb 24.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **COMIC CUTS** *Backstage at the Leeds Empire in 1951 times are changing as old-style Variety is menaced by new, young pop singers. Jack Shepherd's play catches the moment of change*
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm.

■ **COMPANY**: Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. ♿

◪ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI** Cheek by Jowl's often bewildering production of an already confusing play but Anastasia Hille is marvellous as the beleaguered heroine. Final week.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1746). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm. Final performances.

☐ **LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS** Helen McCrory, Joseph Fiennes, Rupert Graves and James Purefoy play the passionate lovers, of theatre and one another, in Simon Callow's production of the classic French film. Short season only.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Now previewing, tonight-Jan 29, 7.15pm, mat today, 2pm. Opens Jan 30, 7pm. ♿

◪ **THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA**: American musical with book and lyrics by Joel Higgins, who also stars as a state executioner who falls in love with the woman set to be his next "client". *Music by Martin Silvestri. One US reviewer called it "original, compelling and fun".*
Aldwych, Strand, WC2 (0171-416 6048) Now previewing, tonight-Jan 30, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Jan 31.

☐ **FUNNY MONEY** Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce. Rodney Bewes is the sorely-tried taxi-driver.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. ♿

◪ **GOLDHAWK ROAD** Enjoyable new Simon Brett play, almost Chekhovian in feel, though centring on the sexual mishaps of a luxury coach-driver, now facing his end not far from this very theatre. Paul Miller directs.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) Mon-Sat, 8pm.

◪ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**. Sam Mendes's radiant production. Zoë Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter. Ben Walden is Tom.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm.

James Bolam in *Wild Oats* at the National (Lyttelton)

■ **HYSTERIA**. Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London.
Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Today, 3pm and 7.30pm. Final performances. ♿

☐ **LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL**. Mime, acrobatics and the haunting skills of contemporary visual theatre, at various venues.
Information (0171 637 5661). Final week.

☐ **THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL**. Mark Arden and Bert Kwouk in revival of Willis Hall's celebrated jungle-war drama, *produced by Counterpoint* Theatre Co. to follow their enjoyable *The Streets of Dublin*.
Brixton Shaw, Brixton Hill, SW2 (0171-274 6470) Tonight, 7.45pm. Transferring straight to the Albery on Jan 31 (0171-369 1730).

■ **MACK AND MABEL**. Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. Fine songs, though a troublesome book. Starring Howard McGillin and a delightful Caroline O'Connor.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **PRIVATES ON PARADE** Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at an Army Camp Party in Malaya in 1948. Paul Clayton directs.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

◪ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE**. A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe, Malcolm McKee.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

■ **SWEETHEART** New play by Nick Grosso, author of the acclaimed *Peaches*. Joe Duttine in the title role of the much-loved but feckless and usually skint Charlie.
Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Now previewing, 7.45pm. Opens Jan 30, 7pm.

☐ **THE TOWER** Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless. Sinead Cusack plays the sex-mad and murderous queen.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. ♿

■ **TRAINSPOTTING** Irving Walsh's blackest of black comedies, set on the *wild side of Edinburgh: drugs, danger* and vomit. Last week of the London season after record-breaking tour.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 6111) Today, 5pm and 8.30pm.

☐ **TWO TRAINS RUNNING** Jenny Jules, Tony Armatrading, George Harris among the strong cast for the latest of August Wilson's decalogue of plays about 20th-century black Americans. Set in 1969 Pittsburgh, in a restaurant due to be demolished. Pauline Randall directs.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000) Now previewing, 8pm. Opens Jan 29, 7pm. ♿

◪ **VOYAGE IN THE DARK**. Strong and poignant production by Sphinx of Jean Rhys's 1934 novel where a naive 19-year-old, adrift in London, finds her hopes for love hitting the rocks. Recommended.
Young Vic Studio, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Tonight, 7.30pm. Final week.

■ **WILD OATS** Anton Lesser as Rover, the touring actor whose talk is a patchwork of the roles he has played. Highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keefe's *1791 farce, with James Bolam*.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Tue, 7.30pm, mats today and Tue, 2.15pm. ♿

◪ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS** Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Less amazing stage effects here but still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. ♿

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ■ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800). ◪ **Crazy for You** Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) ☐ **Dead Guilty** Apollo (0171-494 5070) ■ **Grease** Dominion (0171-416 6060) ■ **Miss Saigon**. Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ■ **Oliver!** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ☐ **The Woman in Black** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

NEW RELEASES

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15) See Critics' Choice, above

◆ **HEAT** (15) See Critics' Choice, above

◆ **THE INNOCENT SLEEP** (15) Rupert Graves sees a murder he shouldn't. Creaky British thriller, with Michael Gambon. Director, Scott Michell
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) *Odeons: Kensington* (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

MADAGASCAR SKIN: Odd behaviour on a beach. Stillborn British feature from Chris Newby, with John Hannah and Bernard Hill.
ICA ♿ (0171-930 3647)

THE MOST DESIRED MAN (18): Broad, mostly pleasant German comedy about sexual identity. Director, Sönke Wortmann
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **SABRINA** (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just does not work. Director, Sydney Pollack.
Empire ♿ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **WAITING TO EXHALE** (15). Crude comedy-drama about black women's men problems. With Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett, director, Forest Whitaker
MGMs: Fulham Road ♿ (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18): Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but stiff drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas
MGM Piccadilly *(0171-437 3561)* **Minema** (0171-235 4225)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) *on release across the country*

◆ **BABE** (U). Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast *of talking animals. Director, Chris* Noonan
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332)

BRAVEHEART (15) Overly blood-thirsty epic, with Mel Gibson as the 13th century Scottish rebel William Wallace. Gibson also directs
Odeon Mezzanine ♿ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15) Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, rose-tinted drama, director, John N. Smith
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) ***UCI Whiteleys*** ♿ *(0171-792 3332)*

◆ **DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS** (15). Splendidly atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late *1940s Los Angeles stumbling over* corpses, police and corruption. Carl Franklin directs, from Walter Mosley's novel.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **FAIR GAME** (15) Laughable action vehicle for model Cindy Crawford, cast as an attorney in peril. With William Baldwin. Director, Andrew Sipes.
MGM Trocadero ♿ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12). Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour; with Sean Bean. Director, Martin Campbell
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Chelsea** *(0171-352 5096)* **Trocadero** ♿ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15). Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Pretty pictures, but little oomph. Jean-Paul Rappeneau directs Olivier Martinez and Juliette Binoche.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

Marisa Paredes stars in *The Flower of My Secret*

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue
Barbican ♿ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham** ***Picture*** *(0171-498 3323)* **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Notting Hill Coronet** ♿ (0171-727 6705) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD** (PG): A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories, directed by Frank Oz.
MGM Chelsea *(0171-352 5096)* **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

MUTE WITNESS (18). Mute girl *witnesses a film studio murder.* Exhilarating and cheeky thriller set in Moscow, with Marina Sudina. Director, Anthony Waller.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Warner** ♿ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SEVEN** (18): Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director, David Fincher
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ♿ *(0171-792 3332)*

SHANGHAI TRIAD (15): Enjoyably opulent gangster saga from Chinese director Zhang Yimou. With Gong Li.
MGM Swiss Centre *(0171-439 4470)* **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **SHOWGIRLS** (18): Las Vegas stripper finds success is not everything. Hollow *tale of hollow people, brazenly presented* by director Paul Verhoeven.
Odeon West End (01426 915574)

TO DIE FOR (15): Delicious social satire *about a television weather girl's* murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Odeon Mezzanine** ♿ (01426 915683)

THE UNDERNEATH (15): The classic 1940s thriller *Criss Cross* remade as a stylish puzzle by director Steven Soderbergh. With Peter Gallagher.
Plaza (0171-437 1234)

Continued from page 1

British Yorkpark gas-condensing boiler, and an Italian electric car nicknamed Hannibal after being driven over the Alps to win the European Solar Car of the Year award.

How it all works is explained at length, and in numbing techno-jargon, in learned journals (photovoltaic cells, solar thermic panels, photons colliding with electrons in silicon panels, glass-filled thermo-plastic polyester wall ties).

Far better is to listen to Dr Roaf, aged 42 and mother of ten-year-old Christopher and nine-year-old Richard. She is an eager guide to her £200,000 house of the future, which is constantly being invaded by architects, students, technical journalists and scientists interested in solar technology.

Had the house been built conventionally, she says, it would have cost about £160,000. The extra £40,000 covered the cost of the solar roof (about £25,000) and all the energy-saving equipment and materials. The walls, floors, roof and ceilings are super-insulated so that not only sunlight but cooking heat, and even body warmth, are retained within the house.

Sophisticated equipment monitors the heat generated and heat used, but Dr Roaf avoids becoming a high-tech energy bore and takes impish delight in revealing her low-tech method of checking the sitting room temperature — a comic Christmas card which has Santa studying a stick-on strip thermometer.

"Look," she says, "it's 21C on a winter's afternoon and there's no heating on anywhere in the house. Not bad, eh? Light some candles for a dinner party and the temperature goes up."

You might think that when a bunch of sustainable-energy enthusiasts get together to design clinically a totally heat-efficient building you could end up with a clinically heat-efficient building, and not much else. Not very likely when Dr Roaf is on site, and remembering that *she* is going to live there with two young sons, one of them asthmatic.

The internal finishings of the house were dictated by a desire to keep everything simple, she says. The place had to provide a healthy environment but that didn't mean sacrificing comfort and livability. Uncarpeted timber and cork floors retain warmth and keep down house dust and mites. The walls are simply painted in white, water-based paint, which is easy to clean.

The simplicity of all this made it easy to co-ordinate the rest of the furnishings. Old, solid furniture throughout, comfortable family stuff.

The house is designed not only to keep warm but never to get too hot. The thick walls and the huge amount of concrete in the building soak up heat trapped in the sealed environment. The sources of this heat are the sun, the wood stove, the gas-condensing boiler, the cooking oven and people. The heat from this thermal mass is slowly released back into the house, Dr Roaf says, so that the temperature cruises between 20C and 23C even in the hottest weather. The walls will stay around those temperatures even if it is 30C outside. It has to be cold or windy for her not to have the back door open.

The equipment in the energy-efficient kitchen is mainly German: AEG cooker, washer, dishwasher, microwave and fridge. There is a British Gas low-energy oven, and a hob by Stoves of Merseyside. "The fridge uses only 34W, which is nothing," she says. "An ordinary fridge would use five times that, at least. But I do without a freezer; they use a lot. In my last quarter I used an average of only 2.5kW a day for everything — a freezer would have doubled that."

We climb the central staircase, skilfully windowed to avoid needing artificial light in the daytime and needing only three 9W bulbs at night. We enter the loft and Dr Roaf says: "Here's my box of tricks." We are surrounded by electronic gadgetry which is monitoring the life of the house like a patient under intensive care. This includes a solar inverter turning DC electricity from the roof panels to AC for use in the house, and the Yorkpark gas-condensing boiler system. The boiler is controlled by a small computer linked to the outside air temperature and has a databank showing how much power has been generated since the family moved into the house last April.

"Look, it's 4.30pm on a January evening and the inverter shows 250W are being generated. Earlier in the day, when the sun was out, we were getting 2,500W."

The heart of the hot water supply system is a thickly insulated 300-litre tank, and on this winter evening its controls were showing a temperature of 40C — hot enough for a bath. Only three times since April has the water gone much cooler than that.

If all the equipment were to be put on at the same time the solar energy system would not be able to cope alone and the extra power needed is triggered in automatically from the National Grid at 7.1p a unit. "So we have to be methodical," Dr Roaf says. "Use the equipment in sequence: do the laundry in the morning, charge the car in the afternoon.

"This way I hardly ever need to import power from Southern Electricity. Most of the time I am exporting it to them — at 2.8p a unit. Over the year we will export more than import. That's about 1,000 exported kW hours a year."

Her three-seater Kewet El-Jet electric car, capable of 40mph, takes two hours to charge and will then cover 30-35 miles. Dr Roaf has asked Oxford council to install electric points around the city where drivers of electric cars can plug in for a recharge. "But Dr Roaf," they say, "you are the only one with such a car." Not for long if Dr Roaf has her way.

The house and car may save her money, but the long-term aim is to save the world. The whole concept will be very useful for teaching future architects about using alternative energy. "I want to see homes like mine becoming widespread, with the technology to build them becoming cheaper," she says.

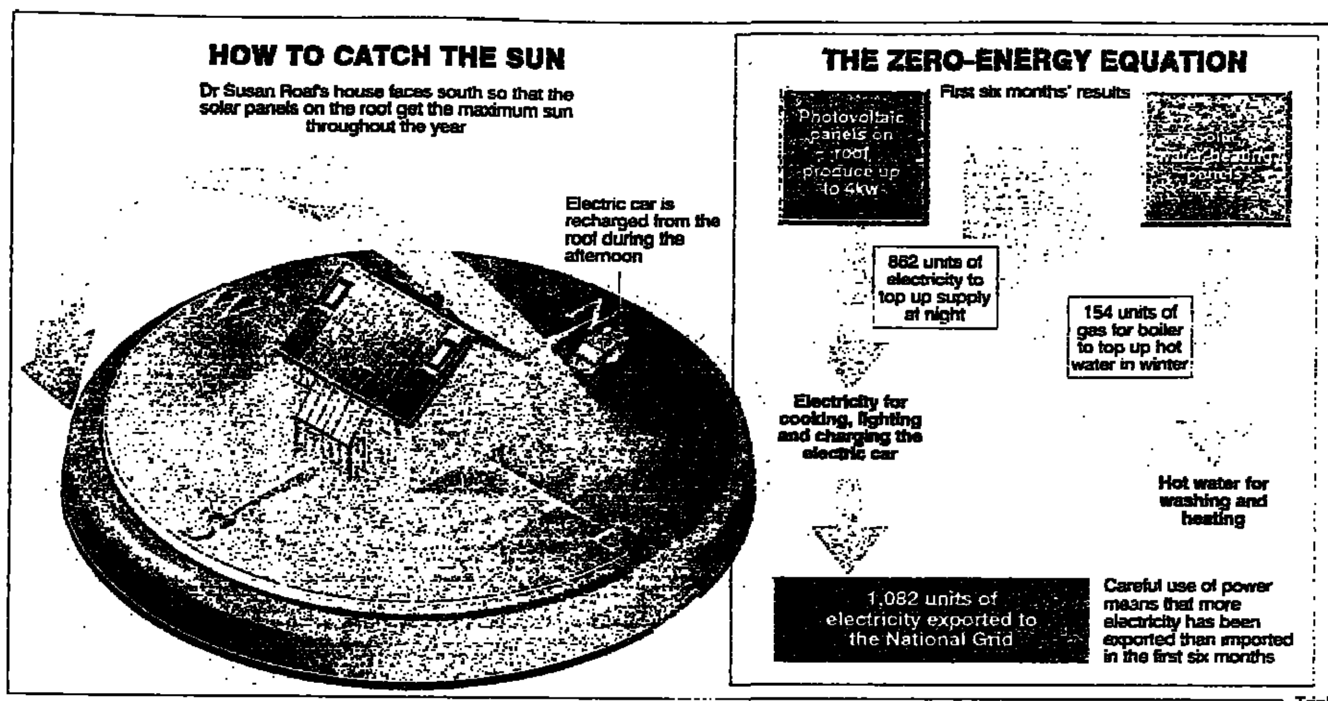
"Apart from saving money, there is the satisfaction of knowing that the power I use is not the product of any polluting process. "I've been teaching energy-efficient architecture at Brookes for five years and I am very aware that we need to learn fast, because the world's energy problems are huge.

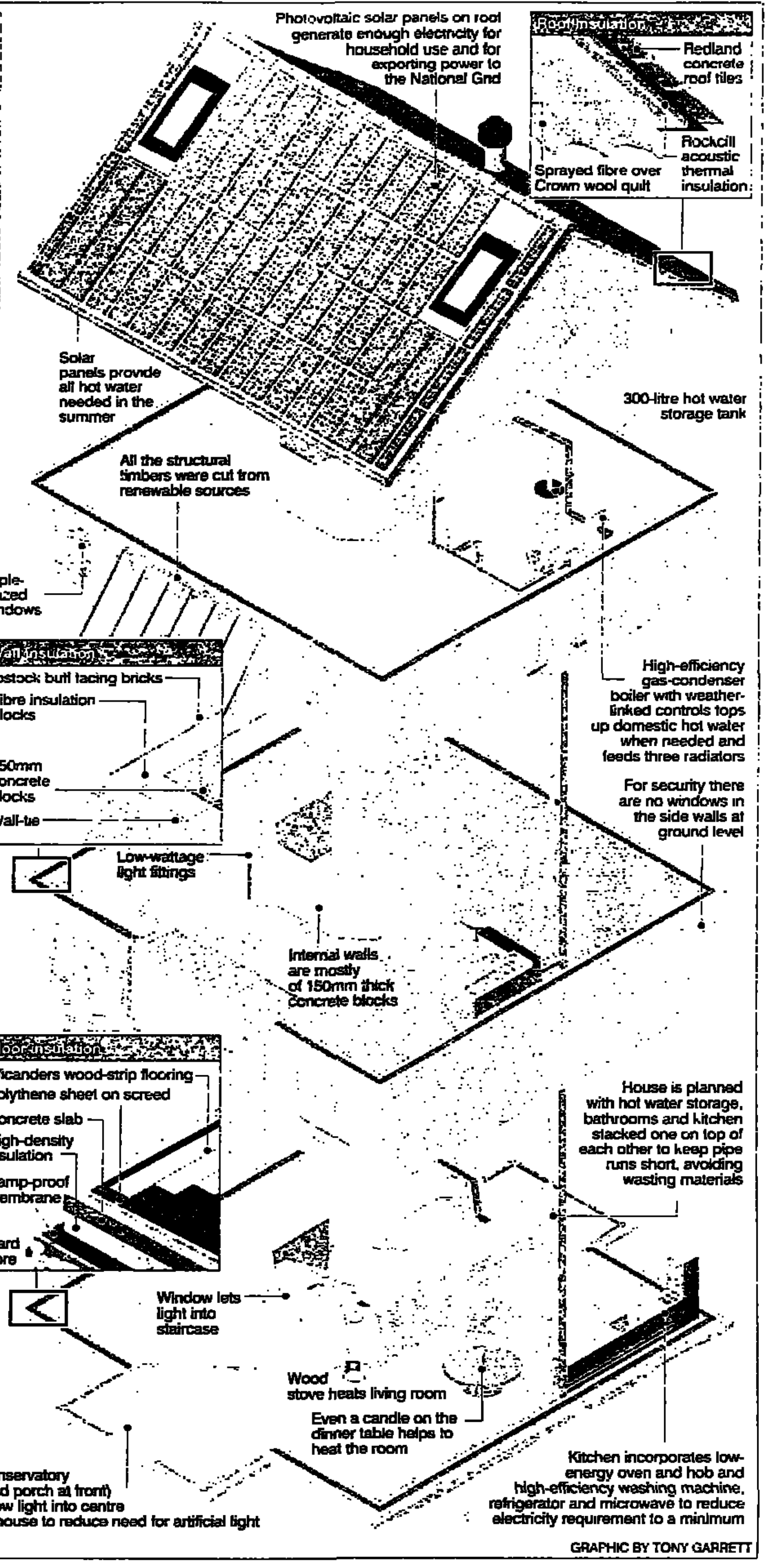
"How long do we have? Something like eight years' known UK gas reserves are left," Dr Roaf says. "Frightening, really — and not enough is being done to address the problem. If we could capture just one ten-thousandth of daylight energy we would have more than we get from burning coal, oil and gas put together. And without any pollution.

"We want to see a new generation of eco-architects who will be able to design houses even more efficient than mine. We have had some high-calibre people slogging away at it for 20 years. I think their time is coming."

● **NEXT WEEK on the Property page: heralding the eco-estate.**

Cover picture concept
by MARTIN HARRISON
Photograph of house
by RAY MAIN
Computer manipulation
by ANDRE LOCKYER


HOW TO CATCH THE SUN
Dr Susan Roaf's house faces south so that the solar panels on the roof get the maximum sun throughout the year
Electric car is recharged from the roof during the afternoon
THE ZERO-ENERGY EQUATION
First six months' results
Photovoltaic panels on roof produce up to 4kw
Solar water-heating panels
882 units of electricity to top up supply at night
154 units of gas for boiler to top up hot water in winter
Electricity for cooking, lighting and charging the electric car
Hot water for washing and heating
1,082 units of electricity exported to the National Grid
Careful use of power means that more electricity has been exported than imported in the first six months


Photovoltaic solar panels on roof generate enough electricity for household use and for exporting power to the National Grid
Roof insulation
Redland concrete roof tiles
Rockcill acoustic thermal insulation
Sprayed fibre over Crown wool quilt
Solar panels provide all hot water needed in the summer
300-litre hot water storage tank
All the structural timbers were cut from renewable sources
Triple-glazed windows
Wall insulation
Ibstock butt facing bricks
Fibre insulation blocks
150mm concrete blocks
Wall-tie
High-efficiency gas-condenser boiler with weather-linked controls tops up domestic hot water when needed and feeds three radiators
For security there are no windows in the side walls at ground level
Low-wattage light fittings
Internal walls are mostly of 150mm thick concrete blocks
Floor insulation
Wicanders wood-strip flooring
Polythene sheet on screed
Concrete slab
High-density insulation
Damp-proof membrane
Hard core
House is planned with hot water storage, bathrooms and kitchen stacked one on top of each other to keep pipe runs short, avoiding wasting materials
Window lets light into staircase
Wood stove heats living room
Even a candle on the dinner table helps to heat the room
Conservatory (and porch at front) allow light into centre of house to reduce need for artificial light
Kitchen incorporates low-energy oven and hob and high-efficiency washing machine, refrigerator and microwave to reduce electricity requirement to a minimum

GRAPHIC BY TONY GARRETT

SOLAR HOME FACT FILE

☐ Dr Roaf's system was designed by solar power specialists Alan Dichier, of MJP Associates, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire, and Bruce Cross, of the Energy Equipment Testing Service at Cardiff University. Solar hot water panels from AES at Findhorn. The house was built by Paul Trimby and colleagues from the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth, Powys SY20 9AZ (01654 702400). They also helped design the roofing system.

☐ There are 40,000 homes in Britain with solar systems for heating domestic water, and the number is increasing. Such systems (costing about £2,000 to £4,000) simply use the heat of the sun to warm the water running through ranks of narrow pipes. Dr Roaf uses a different technology: photovoltaics. Photons from the sun collide with electrons in her silicon panels. Their only escape route is along wires in the roof. The 48 photovoltaic panels, with a capacity to generate a 4kW peak of electricity, cost £250 each from BP Solar, Chertsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 7LN (01932 779543).

☐ Ground-floor insulation: 160mm of Crown floor slab, with 150mm concrete on damp-proof membrane over insulation.

☐ Roof insulation: Crown wool quilt and American sprayed fibre-blown insulation between 200mm deep rafters, with 50mm Rockcill acoustic thermal insulation.

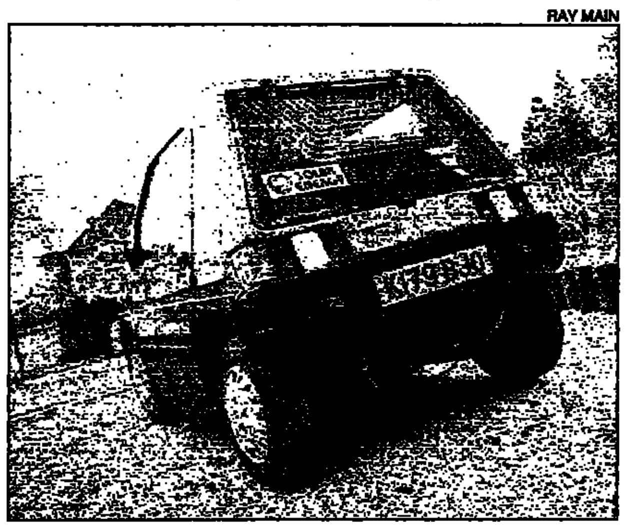
☐ About 95 per cent of the internal walls are high-density concrete block. The ground and first floors are concrete and the second floor is timber, with mineral fibre between the beams.

☐ The kakkelovn wood-burning stove is developed from a forest-saving design conceived in Sweden in 1767. Chosen for its ability to absorb, retain and radiate heat. Handbuilt by Reinhart von Zschock, 4 Wycliffe Terrace, Bath Road, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire GL6 0QW (01453 832809). The combustion chamber is similar to a kiln, encouraging wood to burn at maximum efficiency. Harmful pollutants are consumed usefully as fuel.

☐ The Danish Rufus I nylon cavity wall ties are of glass-filled thermo-plastic polyester, with none of the heat-losing cold bridges of metal wall-ties.

☐ In answer to queries about the dangers of insulating materials giving off fumes if there were a fire, Dr Roaf says: "All insulating materials have had flame-resistant treatment and are buried between 150mm of concrete."

RAY MAIN



Dr Roaf's solar-assisted battery car can travel at 40mph

Ruth Gledhill attends a carol service to celebrate the season of Epiphany

Execution of faith at the Tower

THE SIGN marked "Instruments of Torture" did little to dispel the windchill from the Thames that made me shiver as I walked under Tower Bridge, over a rattling drawbridge and into the small, Tudor building beside the moat of the Tower of London. Probably because of its location, St Peter Ad Vincula seems a fairly grim chapel, eerie when deserted on a gloomy winter's day. *Ad vincula* means "in chains" and a handful of other churches in England and Wales are so named, commemorating St Peter's imprisonment in Jerusalem.

We were met at the west door by the chaplain, Canon Gerry Murphy, and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who was that day's preacher and who seemed thoughtful. He later confessed that he was mindful of William Laud, the only other Bishop of Bath and Wells other than himself ever to go to Canterbury, and who was executed at the Tower in 1645, after repudiating the accusation of Popery.

We were there for a rare event in the Church of England, a carol service to celebrate not Christmas but Epiphany, the season which begins 12 days after Christmas and celebrates the coming of the Magi. Epiphany, which ends next Friday with the presentation of Christ in the Temple, has at times been neglected, but has attained more notice of late because it was the season chosen by all denominations to launch the Decade of Evangelism five years ago.

The service was in support of the Shaftesbury Society, a leading Christian social welfare charity.

After the procession the Archbishop came to rest near the stone which commemorates Lady Jane Grey, proclaimed Queen when Edward died in 1553 but executed within a year after Mary ascended the throne. Nearby lie the bodies of Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard, the two saints John Fisher and Thomas More, and many others.

Lord Macaulay, in his 1848 *History of England*, described the chapel as the saddest spot on earth. "Death is associated there, not as in Westminster and St Paul's, with genius and virtue, with public veneration and with imperishable renown . . . but with whatever is darkest in human nature and in human destiny." But this does not do the chapel justice. As the Shaftesbury Society gives hope to the hopeless, so this chapel and its inspiring chaplain, through their living witness to those unjustly condemned who are buried there, give faith to those without faith.

I was still brooding on the price of fame, power, or of simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time, when the first lesson , from Genesis I began. "The spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," read the altar server. "God said, let there be light." At that point the clouds parted outside and shafts of sunlight streamed through the windows. I noticed that the church was crowded, and all present seemed cheerful. Hymns were sung with enthusiasm, and Dr Carey was listened to intently.

A few clouds returned at the end. It was helpful to be reminded as I left that St Peter had a miraculous escape from his Jerusalem prison.

The Chapel Royal of St Peter Ad Vincula with HM Tower of London, EC3N 4AB (0171-488 5689).

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

CHAPLAIN:
Canon Gervase Murphy.

ARCHITECTURE:
Unforgettable. William the Conqueror built the White Tower in 1078. St Peter's was completed in 1520 after an earlier chapel burnt down. ★★★★★

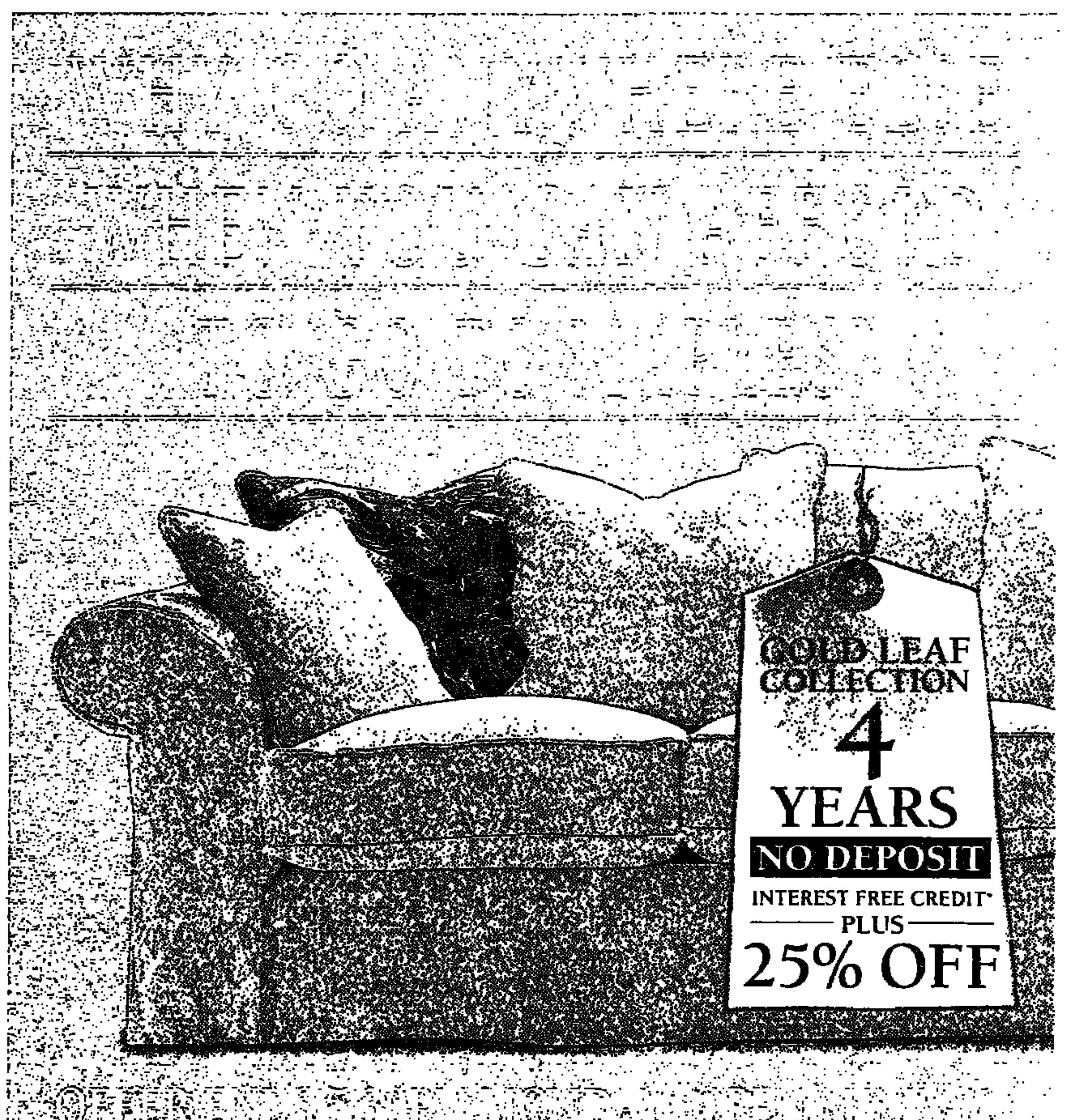
SERMON:
Some might ask themselves if their journey to God was necessary, according to the Archbishop of Canterbury."But there are reasons why the journey is worth persevering with." ★★★★

LITURGY:
Nine lessons interspersed with Epiphany carols and hymns. ★★★★

MUSIC:
Inspiring and beautiful carols from the choir. ★★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH:
A reminder that ghosts of a barbaric past can never be dispelled. ★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE:
Sherry and orange juice in the cosy crypt. ★★★★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MAPLES
THE FINE ART OF FURNISHING

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q I brought back custard apple pips from Madeira and now have a young plant in a pot. I do not have a window ledge free of central heating, and wonder how to give it humidity and warmth. I have tried placing a perforated plastic bag over it, to create a moist atmosphere. — Mrs J. Shoucair, Chislehurst, Kent.

A The name custard apple is used to describe several species of the genus annona. The commonest is the cherimoyer, *Annona cherimola*. You can grow this small tree in a pot, but fruit production is tricky without a warm greenhouse. The conical fruits take many months to develop and need pollinating by hand. *A. cherimola* is the hardiest species and does not require tropical air moisture levels. On the other hand, it will hate the dryness of central heating. Try standing the pot on a tray of moist gravel, and attach a mossy pole to the trunk. Do not use a plastic-bag covering, because this may cause moulds.

Q In my garden I have what I take to be 'Himalaya Giant' blackberries, which are rampant. The plants make far more new growth than I have space to tie in. Does the new growth contribute nutrients to the crop on the old growth, and how should I train the stems? — J.R. Pope, Tisbury, Wiltshire.

A 'Himalaya Giant' is certainly rampant. It thinks nothing of making shoots 20ft long in a season. Varieties as vigorous as this are best trained not in a fan but to the opposite side of the plant each year, to save the worst disentangling of old from new. Cut off the old canes as soon as they have fruited. Weave the new ones up and down on your wires, in a sideways S-pattern, and try not to stop the ends until as late as possible, as this induces sideshoots. You could replace it with a smaller, more manageable variety, such as 'Waldo'. There are thornless varieties such as 'Black Satin' and 'Thornfree', but the flavour is not as good. 'Loch Ness' is, perhaps, the best thornless variety for flavour, and sufficiently restrained in its growth to be fan trained.

Q My patio of reconstituted stone becomes dark and slimy in wet weather and requires soapy water and hard brushing. I do not want to face that job every year. What is the cure, and should the slabs be sealed in some way? — B. Lewis, Bicester, Oxford.

A I would hesitate to seal the paving, because the sealant would soon wear off in areas of heavy use. A peeling surface might look worst of all. Paving in shade is always more prone to algae growth, so make the most of the sunlight first. Check, too, that rain runs off the surface adequately. The household cleanser Flash, applied regularly with a stiff yard brush, keeps algae reasonably at bay, but to kill it properly you would need to use a proprietary product, such as Armillotox, which is safe to use where turf adjoins. There are stronger masonry biocides, which last longer (a season, if you are lucky) but they are less environmentally friendly. Seek further help from a builder's merchant.

Q Can I grow a mulberry tree as a shrub in a tub on my balcony? — P.C. Dartmouth, Devon.

A The mulberry is a tough tree and can stand plenty of cold, so that should not be a problem. Be sure the tub is well drained, so it does not freeze in a waterlogged state. You will need to prune it back a little every year to keep it in bounds, and to repot it every year (or two), trimming back the longest roots, teasing off some of the old compost, and repotting in fresh compost. Tough or not, it pays to protect the tub in winter with bubble film and sacking.

Q Last year I raised four kiwi fruit plants from seed and brought them on in the greenhouse where they have grown very energetically. How do I continue to grow them, as I can find no literature on them? — K. W. Beer, Cardiff.

A The kiwi fruit, or Chinese gooseberry (*Actinidia chinensis*), is a rampant climber. You could grow it out of doors as an ornamental for its large, furry leaves, but for fruiting it needs to be under glass, with a vigorous pruning system similar to that used for grape vines. They can just about be grown in a large pot. If you want good fruit, it is advisable to buy a reliable named variety. For further information, consult the relevant extract from the Royal Horticultural Society's *Encyclopaedia on Fruit* (ISBN 1-85732-905-8, £7.99).

Q Why do my outdoor Gardeners Delight tomatoes split? I have them in grow-bags and watered them every evening through last summer's hot weather. Then they split when the rain came. — G. Stoney, Itchen Abbas, Hampshire.

A Hot and dry conditions, followed by heavy watering, leads to a sudden influx of water which bursts the fruit. For all your care with the watering, the sudden arrival, after prolonged heat, of abundant moisture in the air as well as the soil will cause plants to drink deeply and pop their buttons. If splitting occurs even during hot weather, try watering morning and evening, with fewer plants to a bag.

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

How to gild a tree with pillars of living colour

Stephen Anderton on the wisdom of using trees for climbing plants, such as wisteria, ivy and roses

There is nothing so strong as a tree to support a rampant climber. In Cadogan Place, Knightbridge, west London, a wisteria once grew 60ft up into the head of a Tree of Heaven, until the 1987 storm brought the tree down. But gardeners always worry about what damage a climber, particularly ivy, can do to a tree. The usual answer is: less than you think.

One of my strongest memories while visiting gardens open to the public last year was seeing a mature silver variegated holly at Long Close, Woodhouse Eaves, in Leicestershire. Into the holly were growing a free-flowering wisteria and a pale-pink form of *Clematis montana*. The two were flowering simultaneously and, although the silvery holly foliage did not offer a striking contrast, between the three of them they made an extraordinary tower of silver, pink and mauve; colour poured off in swags and eddied into adjacent trees. The climbers, in fact, were doing considerable harm to the holly. Evergreens hate having their foliage smothered by other plants, and quickly become moth-eaten or bald. Left to their own devices, the climbers would have finished off that grand and glamorous holly in a couple of years, and I do not doubt that careful hands were at work behind the scenes keeping that tumult of growth sufficiently in check for all contributors to survive.

> ‘The real risk from climbers is that they will rob the tree itself of light’

In Northumberland, after a recent mild winter, I saw the Scotch flame flower, *Tropaeolum speciosum*, turning a dreary Lawson cypress into a pillar of summer scarlet. Usually, the tropaeolum dies down to the ground, but that winter its stems had survived right to the top and had grown on to make a 25ft pillar of red. No doubt the cypress would survive the odd year under the less than smothering foliage of the tropaeolum, and if not, well . . . do we need any more Lawson cypresses?

Wisteria, Scotch flame flower, vines and Boston ivy all leapfrog up twigs on trees. But there are others which grow clinging to the trunk, to emerge later at the top. Ivy is the obvious case. Creeping stems on the ground suddenly bump noses with a trunk and up they go, fast as a cartoon cat, and clinging to the trunk with aerial roots. Then, in the safety of the branches, they turn sideways and pause. Suddenly the growth habit changes. The aerial roots stop and the stems branch out from the trunk, making mature, flowering growth. It is this bushy top growth which is the real threat to trees. Gardeners worry that the aerial roots will suck the life from the tree and strangle it but, in reality, there is little harm done. The real risk is partly from top growth robbing the tree itself of light, and from the weight of mature ivy growth, allowing so much snow to collect on branches in winter that limbs break under the weight.

The sight of mature ivy growth in a tree offends some people, who prefer to see a tree clear in its outline. But William Robinson, that 19th-century proselyte of wild gardening, planted ivy on the ground with the clear intention that it would find its way up into the trees. Perhaps not in a formal garden, but certainly in a woodland or wild garden.

So if you have ivy in a garden tree and it does not offend, keep it in hand by pruning. Take out some growth every winter and give it to flower arrangers whom you wish to be in your debt.

And when you do prune, notice how many old birds' nests there are in the mature growth. The forking habit of the twigs, high up and evergreen, means that birds love it for nesting. If you are clearing out a great deal of ivy from an old tree, it is no bad idea to wear a mask against the cascades of dust and birdlime which are released.

Similar in habit to ivy, but deciduous, is the climbing *Hydrangea petiolaris*. It looks marvellous grown up into an old pine tree when its creamy, flat heads of flower open in June and you catch a hint of coconut scent on the air. It takes a little more starting off than ivy but, once it is established, it will luxuriate in a tree and require the same periodic cutting out of chunks of flowering growth in winter.

Slightly less rampant is *Schizophragma hydrangeoides*, which might be good to try growing in a tree, or the less hardy but evergreen *Pileostegia viburnoides*.

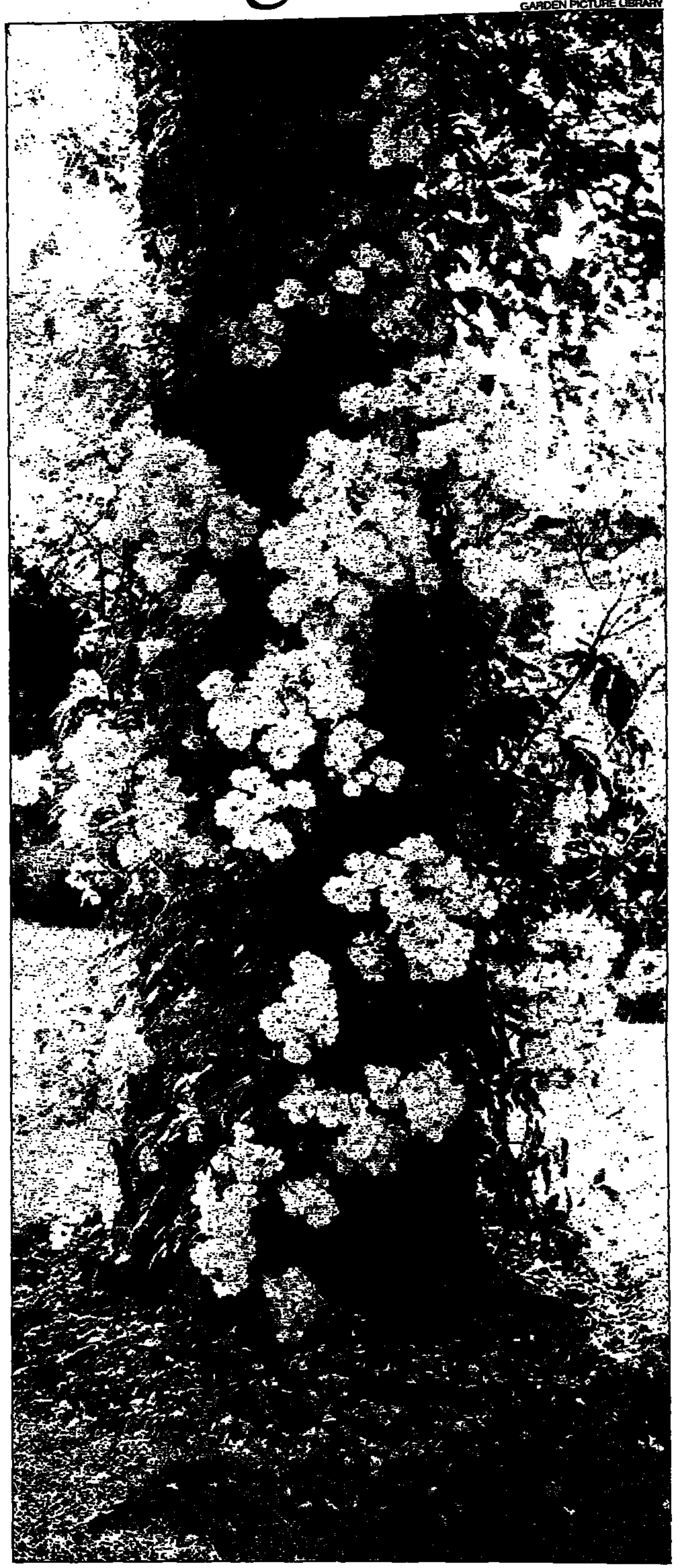
For autumn colour, a tree can play host to the large-leaved Japanese vine, *Vitis coignetiae*, or Virginia creeper, *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*. Either would be more fun than the Chinese gooseberry which, although it has large, furry foliage, simply goes grey in autumn.

Celastrus orbiculatus is a rampant climber with insignificant foliage and flowers, but its glory is its orange berries born after the leaves have fallen, and they can look marvellous swagging down from the lower branches of a tree. Both male and female are required for berries to be produced, so it makes sense to plant only the hermaphrodite form in gardens, to save space and trouble.

What of climbers for smaller trees? There are roses, of course, clematis species and hybrids, honeysuckles, and the blue potato-flowered *Solanum crispum* 'Glasnevin'. But not every small tree (or large one) is improved by having a climber all over it, and in a small garden where a small tree may be a main part of the design, clarity of trunk and branches is perhaps more useful than a muddle of vines.

With the best will in the world, one decaying apple tree with a rose climbing up it doth not a Sissinghurst make.

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY



Summer sensation: a vibrant 'Rambling Rector' rose entwining the trunk of an old pear tree

WEEKEND TIPS

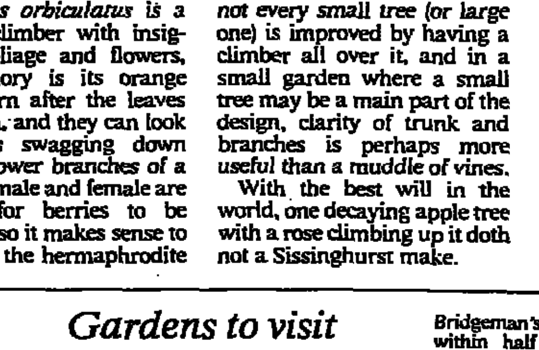
- ● *Cut back ivy and creepers on the house to the roof line, and erect training wires on walls.*
- ● *Pot up or replant hippeastrums in a soil-based compost, such as John Innes No 2, and keep fairly dry until growth starts.*
- ● *Remove weak or crossing growth on hybrid tea and floribunda roses, but delay final pruning.*
- ● *Sow early-crop broad beans in pots under glass ready for spring planting.*

Gardens to visit

☐ ***Plas Brondanw, Llanfrothen, Gwynedd (01766 770484).***
Off A4085, five miles northeast of Porthmadog. Open daily 9am-5pm. Entrance £1.50, children 25p.

"Architectural" gardens can be presented to best effect in winter, and this is true of Plas Brondanw in Wales, created by the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, designer of nearby Portmeirion. The house occupies a spectacular position on the edge of Snowdonia, and Williams-Ellis designed his garden to make the most of breathtaking views. These are framed by yew hedges and topiary. Horticulture is understated, and ornamental flourishes, such as fine urns atop tall piers, stone balustrading and statues, are the primary decorations. The link with the surrounding countryside is dramatically presented by a path leading from the garden through woodland to the watchtower that Williams-Ellis built on a natural crag.

☐ **Claremont Landscape Garden, Esher, Surrey (01372 469421).**
In Esher, off the A3 Portsmouth Road. Open: Jan to March, Nov and Dec (except 25th), daily except Mon, 10am-5pm (sunset if earlier); April to Oct, Mon to Fri, 10am-6pm, Sat and Sun, Bank Holiday Monday, 10am-7pm. Entrance £2.



Lakeside splendour: Claremont

Winter garden visiting should focus on places that reward a good walk rather than a potter, and Britain's historic landscape gardens feature prominently in this category. One of the most distinguished, at Claremont, lies less than 15 miles from the centre of London and rewards the visitor seeking education or exercise. It was developed by the central figures of the landscape movement in the 18th century: Sir John Vanbrugh, Charles Bridgeman, William Kent and Lancelot "Capability" Brown. Their work saw the garden progress from Bridgeman's semi-formal landscape to one that, within half a century, had been carefully naturalised by Kent and Brown, while retaining a number of its earlier highlights, such as Bridgeman's impressive grass amphitheatre and Vanbrugh's castellated belvedere. After becoming threatened by decay and undergrowth, during the 1970s Claremont benefited from one of the National Trust's most ambitious garden restorations: a jungle of laurel and ponticum rhododendron was removed, the terraces of the ampthitheatre recreated and buildings renovated. Claremont is a revelation in the skills of creating a garden with trees, grass, water and buildings.

☐ **Potterton and Martin, Moortown Road, Nettleton, Caistor (01472 851792).**
In Nettleton, 18 miles northeast of Lincoln via A46 and B1205. Open daily 9am-5pm.

This is primarily a nursery which is probably known to most gardeners for its mouthwatering stands at Chelsea and other big shows around the country. But any time during the next few weeks is ideal for a visit to look at the dwarf bulbs and other miniature plants in which it specialises. Early delights, such as anemones, reticulata irises and cyclamen are presented in unusally wide ranges. There is also a mail-order service.

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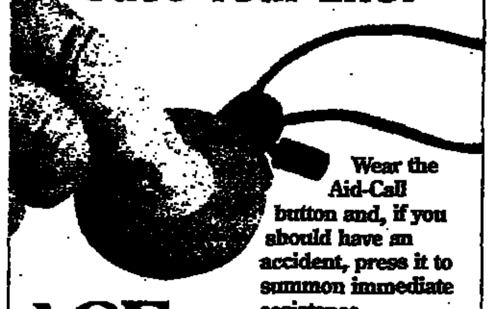

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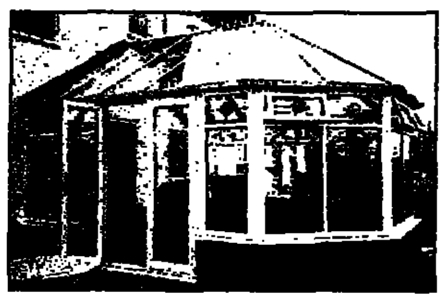

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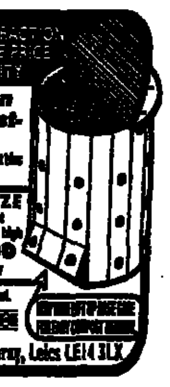

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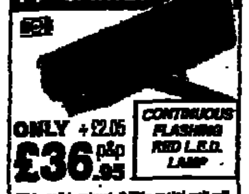

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BOOKS

Damn, what a publisher

A heartfelt tribute to a man of exemplary faith and vision

An aunt of mine used to say that there was nothing like a quick survey of other people's husbands to reconcile one to one's own. I suspect that that is precisely how most writers feel about their publishers — an exasperation with daily habits balanced by a recognition of the very real dangers of an alternative. (In any case, in *these perilous* marital and publishing times, suppose nobody else *wants you*?)

These reflections were brought on by an oddly *heartfelt occasion in the pub*lishing world last week. I say oddly because publishing is *not going in much for heart* at the moment but more for an unsettling mixture of commerce (which it does not appear much good at) and confusion (at which it seems to excel).

JOANNA TROLLOPE

The occasion was a farewell dinner of 250 people — publishers, agents, journalists and authors — at the Merchant Taylors' Hall for Paul Scherer, the retiring chairman and chief executive of Transworld Publishing. What made it uncommon was not the heavyweight guest list but that nobody had come merely to network or nosebag, but instead out of real admiration and affection for the guest of honour.

I ought to confess now that Scherer has been my own paperback publisher since I turned to writing contemporary fiction. More than that, he is the first publisher in a writing career of more than 20 years at whom I have been able to have a really good look, partly because of the sort of man he is and partly because he always ran a very open company.

To a writer, a publisher is a very different matter from an editor. An editor is necessarily your intimate: an editor can become your best mate with whom you feel perfectly free to quarrel shrilly about pet metaphors and unhappy endings. But a publisher, to be of service to an author, must keep his/her distance. One hopes for a friendship of course, but it should be a dignified one that recognises, with mutual respect, an equally mutual business dependence. Writers, rather like Jerusalem on the *Mappa Mundi*, see themselves as the centre of the world: it is imperative that publishers, to make the best of those writers, should see the whole of the map.

The part of that map occupied by Transworld when Scherer joined in 1982 was, to say the least, undistinguished. It was losing £1 million a year, it had a funny name — casually bestowed by a *former senior* executive after the airline he happened to be travelling on *at the moment of naming the* baby — and a funny address, in the Uxbridge Road, which *is, as Scherer liked to explain* kindly to nervy metropolitan journalists, "just this side of Bath".

Thirteen years later, Transworld is at the top of the publishing tree with profits of more than £7 million and a revenue increase last year of 37 per cent. (There are no plans to change either name or address.)

This is plainly the work of an excellent businessman, which Scherer is. He is also an equally excellent people manager. He has said that the first essential of a good publishing house is the authors and the second is having the right people in the right jobs. But there is more to it than that. I do not think it is irrelevant that Scherer is a practising Roman Catholic and an enthusiastic family man, since there is nothing like family and faith to prevent one from *ever* taking oneself too seriously. Or for helping one to realise that other people, even the most troublesome, are fellow travellers.

We shall miss him. We shall miss his principles and his unsnobbishness, his humour and his capacity to be peacefully himself, whether addressing a trade conference on overheads control, or waltzing gravely, in response to a dare from the sales reps, around a dance floor in Cyprus with a tower of water (or was it whisky?) glasses on his head. But he has taught us writers so much, not least to realise that not only do we not need to know everything about the passage of our books to the shops but also that there are people who actually know better about such things than we do. And he has also taught us what to aim for in a publisher.

Envy of the drinking classes

Work, once an onerous chore, has become a desperately sought-after and jealously guarded privilege, says **Harry Ritchie**

IT MIGHT be hard to recall now but *there was a time when people took* employment for granted. One of the grimmer achievements of three Con*servative governments* has been to banish that complacency and transform jobs into objects of desperate desire, no matter how mundane. "What do you say to a graduate with a job?" runs the joke. "I'll have a Big Mac, please."

Wearing a daft stripey uniform and doling out meat in buns is a glaring exception to the rule. But, as we are now anxious to appreciate, most jobs provide various benefits besides the wage packet: a reason to get up in the morning, a sense of structure to the days and weeks, and above all, the camaraderie of workmates — these are the boons envied by the retired or unemployed in *Talking Work*, a compilation of first-hand accounts of working (and non-working) lives.

■ TALKING WORK: An Oral History
By Trevor Blackwell & Jeremy Seabrook
Faber, £15.99

Trevor Blackwell and Jeremy Seabrook present job descriptions ranging from Harry Price's memory of his time as a coachman and omnibus driver at the start of the century to the teenager Tricia Duncan's account of her wiping and feeding duties in a present-day private nursing home.

Many of the monologues provide glimpses of amazing autobiography — that of Ada Carey, for example, born in 1902 to a life of unrelenting hardship, or of Len Greenham, who spent 46 proud years in the leather trade, where he perfected the now-lost craft of the morocco-grainer. The most arcane job was that of the young Terry Hamlyn, who started out in a *Lyons Corner House in the* early 1960s as a light-bulb changer.

Terry's subsequent career of ducking and diving becomes more typical as the monologues move towards the present day, partly because the authors ignore any employee who might have a conventional, bourgeois profession. One young *inter*viewee does describe himself as middle-class, but since he earns a bit *on the side as well as claiming his* dole, perhaps he is mistaken.

This is a rather ramshackle book. *It is also a partial study,* since all the interviewees belong to the urban working class. Even so, it makes for *fascinating* reading. Were I the authors' foreman, I would slap them on the back.

Interstellar yuppies blast off

THE MAINSTAYS of science fiction change with each generation of science. Now that we already have the crude basics of nanotechnology — working prototype machines the size of a grain of rice — and can manufacture replacements for a growing number of body parts, "neural nanonics" and "infra-red implants" have become the stock in trade of the sci-fi industry. What differs most in visions of the future is the social set-up.

William Gibson and Greg Bear, America's brightest stars, respectively imagine a near-future of technological neo-punk anarchy and an evolution of humanity into a body-transformed, almost Confucian society outside the laws of time and space. Britain's leading new-wave exponent of the genre, Iain M. Banks, envisaged a sort of cross between sexually relaxed *Swedish* social democracy and Tony Blair's "New" Labour with everyone given an unlimited credit card.

Hamilton: vintage sci-fi

In stark contrast, Peter F. Hamilton's intergalactic society *of the early 27th century is* an apotheosis of Thatcherite

■ THE REALITY DYSFUNCTION
By Peter F. Hamilton
Macmillan, £16.99

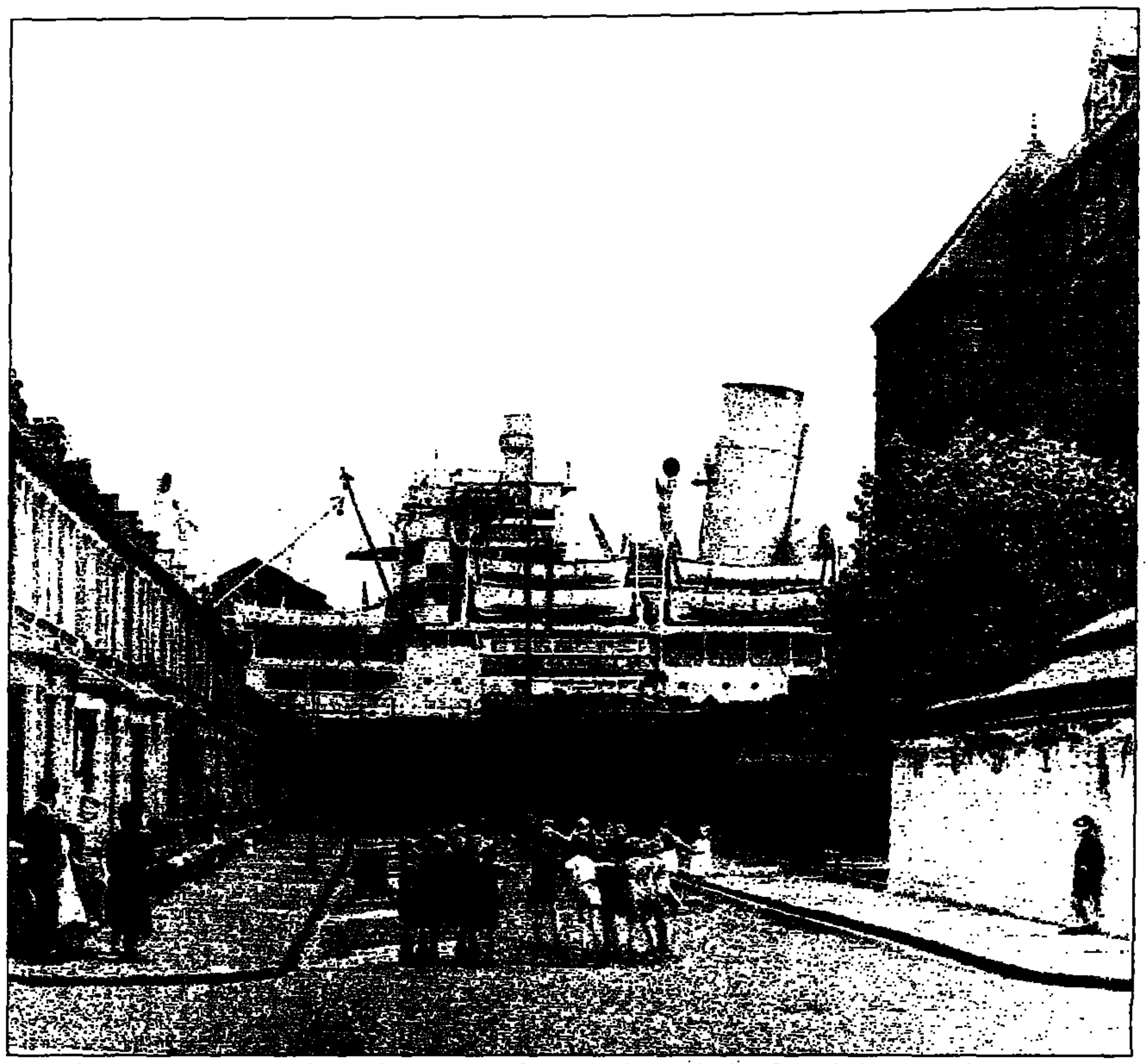
values, taken to the high heavens. Terra-compatible worlds are seen as investment opportunities: free trade is the basis of interplanetary civilisation, and a few wars: there is a *Star Trek*-style confederation but also a galactic Christian kingdom: worlds are frequently colonised on an ethnic basis, giving us a Polish planet called Mazowiecki and even an isolationist English idyll: a world called Norfolk, whose main export — Norfolk Tears — is the most sought-after drink in the universe.

Hamilton divides humanity into Edenists — genetically engineered space-dwellers with telepathic affinity to their biotechnological homes and ships — and Adamists, effectively the Luddites of the far future, who cling to quaint concepts such as religion.

Which brings us to the great central theme of this book — life, the universe and everything. The cast includes a Satanist ready to stir revolt on a pioneer world with living conditions like California in the 1840s, a teenage girl who has inherited an outcast tax-haven empire which also holds the archaeological key to the mysterious suicide of an ancient alien race, and a free-booting cosmic Casanova.

This is an intergalactic adventure story laced with ironies, insights and held together by a transcending central plot: absolutely vintage science fiction. Hamilton puts British sci-fi back into interstellar overdrive.

PETER MILLAR



All shipshape: Saville Road in London's Docklands once had a dry dock at the end of it. Now it backs onto the terminal buildings of City Airport. From *Classic Ships: Romance and Reality* by Nicholas Faith (Boxtree, £17.99)

Sarah Johnson suggests some titles to explain sex, death and French

Facts of life

CHILDREN

CHILDREN read about sex early these days. Most people can remember vividly the first book they ever read which had "real" sex in it (as opposed to Mr Toad's problems fighting off men while disguised as a washerwoman), so it matters which book takes this role in a child's life. I would rather my children remembered John Loveday's Western frontier tale, **Goodbye Buffalo Sky** (Bloomsbury, £6.99) than any of the hot pink paperbacks about Barbie-doll teenagers with "boyfriend trouble" that *clog up bookshop shelves.*

An artist brings his Indian bride, Two Songs, to a frontier *settlement, but is killed by her* spurned Indian lover. Her friend Cappy walks out of school after a row: 13-year-old Alice stands by him: and as Two Songs needs their protection from the white settlers who feel she will bring trouble (and they are right), it seems that childhood is over for Cappy and Alice.

The tensions lead up to a subtly-written scene of attempted rape that younger children need only understand at their own levels, and Alice and Cappy decide to set off with Two Songs to find her own people. Loveday's picture of young people trying to choose grown-up words for *their feelings will be memora*ble. For ages nine and over.

Younger children are often *more worried about death* than sex, so look for Sheila and Kate Isherwood's **My Grandad** (OUP, £3.99), *one of* the best "situation books" I have seen, in which a child thinks of all the different ways in which her dead grandfather is still with her — a simple and useful book for under-sevens.

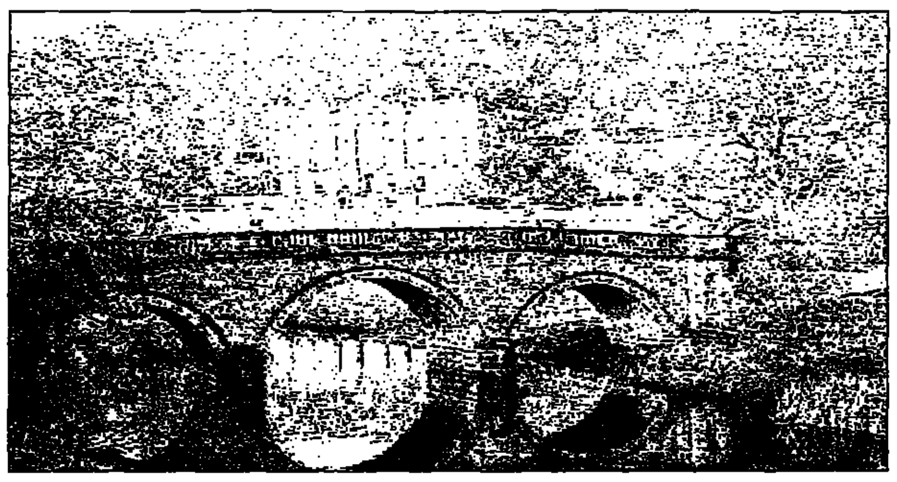
Mayan tale: *People of Corn*

Two thoughtful ethnic stories are worth looking out for *to be read by six-pluses, or for* reading to four-to-sixes. **People of Corn** (Little, Brown, £9.99), a Mayan creation legend retold by Mary-Joan Gerson, could open up discussions about what makes people different from animals — and is enhanced by dazzling gouache paintings from Carla Golembe. Jane Kurtz, who impressed last year with *Mamo on the Mountain*, has written **Almaz and the Lion** (Gollancz, £8.99), another graceful Ethiopian folk-tale with a message about building relationships that should not be missed by stepchildren and step-parents all over the world.

Every posh nursery school seems to teach French these days (although German or Spanish would be more useful) so Opal Dunn's **Un Deux Trois** (Frances Lincoln, £8.99) will be popular. She has collected some charming French nursery rhymes that parents will enjoy reciting with their under-fives, or with *five to eights learning French.*

Some colourful fun with language for even younger *children (two to four) is con*tained in **Sleep, Sleep, Sleep** (Little, Brown, £9.99), a multilingual lullaby by Nancy Van Laan with lovely, bright pictures by Holly Meade.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVOURITE HISTORIC PROPERTY



The magnificent gardens of Chatsworth in Derbyshire: one of 16 short-listed properties.

The Times/NPI National Heritage Awards

Since the launch of the National Heritage Awards last autumn, readers of *The Times* have nominated more than 160 properties *which they consider to be the best in the* British Isles.

The awards, in association with pensions specialist NPI, now moves onto the voting stage and today we publish a voting form, right, containing the 16 short-listed finalists. You can also vote for *The Times* Family award, by selecting a property you consider makes a special effort to entertain and inform adults and children.

The winning property will be presented with a crystal trophy by Lord Inglewood, under secretary of state at the Department of National Heritage, at a gala reception in London in April. *By registering your vote, you will auto*matically be entered into a free prize draw for the chance to attend the ceremony with a guest.

*Coffee table books illustrating historic build*ings, worth £20 each, will go to 20 runners-up.

Post the voting form to:
The Times/NPI National Heritage Awards, Spero Communications, Grampian *House, Meridian Gate,* Marsh Wall, London E14 9XT. Closing date is Saturday, March 2, 1996.

NPI

NPI NATIONAL HERITAGE AWARDS

Name ....

Address ....

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Postcode .... Day tel ....

I would like to vote for the following properties. Please mark 1, 2 and 3 in the spaces provided, 1 being the overall winner, 2 the runner-up and 3 third place.

Audley End House		Dover Castle	
Blickling Hall		Forde Abbey	
Bolsover Castle		Fountains Abbey	
Brodsworth Hall		Hampton Court	
Chartwell		Harewood House	
Chatsworth		Hever Castle	
Cotehele		Stokesay Castle	
Culzean Castle		Warwick Castle	

The Times Family Award
Please tick one only

Bolsolver Castle		Dover Castle	
Brodsworth Hall		Fountains Abbey	
Chatsworth		Warwick Castle	

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Peter Jay analyses the betrayal of American KGB spy Aldrich Ames; *Stephen Tumim* on David Rose's examination of the failure of British justice; Matthew Parris on television's influence on the lives of our children

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	X-FILES BOOK OF THE UNEXPLAINED Vol 1 **Jane Goldman** *(Simon & Schuster)*	£15.99	4	11
2	CROSS CHANNEL **Julian Barnes** *(Cape)*	£10.99	7	2
3	DELIA SMITH'S WINTER COLLECTION **Delia Smith** *(BBC)*	£15.99	1	14
4	IMMEDIATE ACTION **Andy McNab** *(Bantam)*	£15.99	8	12
5	THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY **Chris Ryan** *(Century)*	£15.99	0	11
6	THE CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY *(OUP)*	£14.99	9	3
7	CHRONICLE OF THE YEAR *(Dorling Kindersley)*	£9.99	0	1
8	DELIA SMITH'S SUMMER COLLECTION **Delia Smith** *(BBC)*	£14.99	0	13
9	X-FILES: GROUND ZERO **Kevin J. Anderson** *(HarperCollins)*	£9.99	0	1
10	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE **Daniel Goleman** *(Bloomsbury)*	£16.99	0	1

PAPERBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	THE STATE WE'RE IN **Will Hutton** *(Vintage)*	£7.99	2	3
2	SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS **David Guterson** *(Bloomsbury)*	£5.99	1	18
3	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM **Kate Atkinson** *(Black Swan)*	£5.99	7	2
4	THE JUROR **George Dawes Green** *(Bantam)*	£5.99	3	3
5	SCIENCE MIND & COSMOS **ed John Brockman** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	8	3
6	SOPHIE'S WORLD GREEK PHILOSOPHERS **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	9	2
7	REGENERATION **Pat Barker** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	6	10
8	GOD'S UTILITY FUNCTION **Richard Dawkins** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	0	1
9	NATURAL SELECTION **Charles Darwin** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	0	1
10	THE EYE IN THE DOOR **Pat Barker** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	11	9
11	INTERESTING TIMES **Terry Pratchett** *(Corgi)*	£4.99	4	11
12	BORROWED TIME **Robert Goddard** *(Corgi)*	£4.99	0	4
13	HOLOCAUST **Paul Johnson** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	0	1
14	FREE TO TRADE **Michael Ridpath** *(Mandarin)*	£5.99	13	2
15	THE HIGHWAY CODE *(HMSO)*	£0.99	0	1
16	HISTORY OF ENGLAND **Jane Austen** *(Penguin)*	£0.60	0	2
17	ALAN CLARK DIARIES: THATCHER'S FALL **Alan Clark** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	0	1
18	SONGS OF INNOCENCE & EXPERIENCE **William Blake** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	0	1
19	UTOPIA **Sir Thomas More** *(Phoenix)*	£0.60	0	1
20	A GUIDE TO HAPPINESS **Epicurus** *(Penguin)*	£0.60	14	2

Any book from this list can be ordered from Dillons Mail Order Tel: 0171 636 1577 Fax: 0171 580 7680 DILLONS

NOVELS IN BRIEF

Weird sisters

■ THE TIMID, BENDING VENUS
By John Adlard
Tabb House, £12.95
ON HIS way to a conference on feminism in a haunted Scottish castle, Stephen — a disaffected part-time lecturer — sees two young women bathing naked in a river. They are the ghosts of two sisters, Sophie and Ada, who lived at the castle in the early years of the century. The beautiful and *headstrong* Sophie decides that she must secure him for herself — even at the expense of his *incipient affair* with Galina, also attending the conference. The triangular relationship is counterpointed by developments at the conference. Poet John Adlard's posthumously published novel is only 150 pages long, and yet it contains more wit and insight than many twice as long.

■ DEAD OF LIGHT
By Chaz Brenchley
Hodder & Stoughton, £12
BENEDICT, a university student, finds the settled world of academia giving way to something darker when he attends the funeral of his murdered cousin Marty. Finding the murderer will be no easy matter because Benedict's *family, the Macallans* — a Mafia-like clan with sinister powers — are so universally loathed that almost anyone could have done it. Brenchley writes compellingly but his narrative sometimes gets *lost* in Gothic special effects.

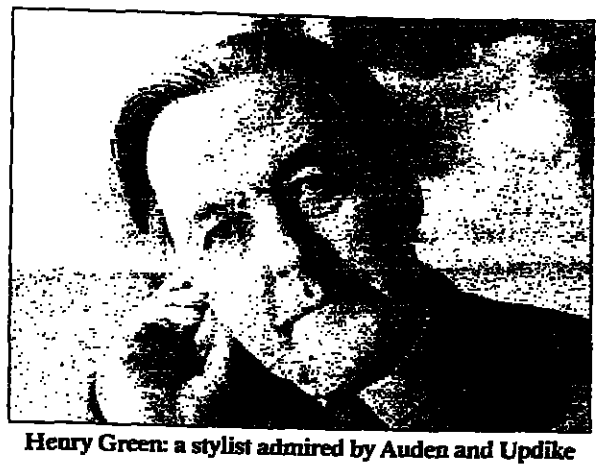
■ AN IMAGE TO DIE FOR
By Mike Phillips
HarperCollins, £14.99
SAM READ, journalist and *reluctant* sleuth, is black. More importantly, he belongs to the inner city; he could win a Nobel *Prize* for street wisdom. His job, for a television company, is to trace a missing black layabout *who might* have committed the murder for which another man is in jail. Read's search unearths deeper, scarier issues, involving the complex past lives of his television colleagues. He moves effortlessly between media-land and decaying inner London. This is Mike Phillips's best novel, brutal and caring, totally authentic.

● *Contributors: Christina Koning, Marcel Berlins*

هكذا من الأمل

BOOKS

NEW IN PAPERBACK



Henry Green: a stylist admired by Auden and Updike

■ PARTY GOING
By Henry Green
Harvill, £8.99

FIRST published by the Hogarth Press in 1939, this story of a group of socialites marooned by Stygian fog in a London railway station is a comedy of manners with strong symbolic undertones.

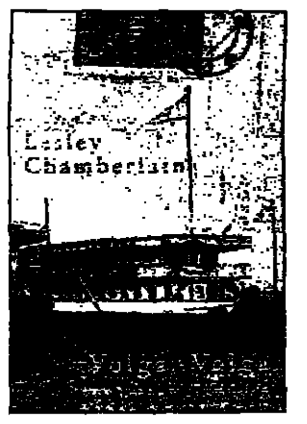
En route to a house-party in the South of France, the friends of rich young Max Adey have great difficulties reaching their rendezvous, but these are as nothing compared with the inconveniences awaiting them as they are forced to bivouac in the station hotel. Tiresome farewells are protracted; someone falls ill; and, worst of all, flirtations are obliged to be conducted in public, without any means of escape short of leaving through one door and returning through it shortly after.

As worldly Max and his would-be inamorata Julia look down from their privileged oasis on the vast uneasy throng of frustrated passengers below, they see a Persian carpet of lost souls. Groups with luggage look like monuments in a graveyard. Within the hotel, farcical cross-purposes abound, as manipulative Angela terrorises her beau and Max's beautiful mistress Annabel coolly paints her fingernails. These women are lampooned ungently as a fiendishly competitive species, drawing on tanks of self-confidence like camels crossing a desert. But even here the atmosphere of delayed departure for the underworld remains.

This powerfully idiosyncratic stylist has long been admired by fellow writers, from Auden to Updike. For the common reader, as for the scholar, the pleasures and possible interpretations are many. We can look forward to seeing the eight other Green novels reissued.

■ A PERSONAL MATTER
By Kenzaburo Oē
Picador, £5.99

THE CENTRAL character of this novel, whose author won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1994, is Bird, a frustrated little man in his thirties, still, significantly, known by his adolescent nickname. He teaches English to college rejects at an Osaka crammer and dreams of escaping to Africa. When his unloved wife gives birth to an apparently brain-damaged child, shock and disappointment drive him to seek oblivion in drink and the arms of an ex-girlfriend, and to increasingly frantic attempts to destroy his son. He is finally forced to realise that he must stop running away and take responsibility not just for the baby, but for himself.



■ VOLGA, VOLGA
A Voyage Down the Great River
By Lesley Chamberlain
Picador, £7.99

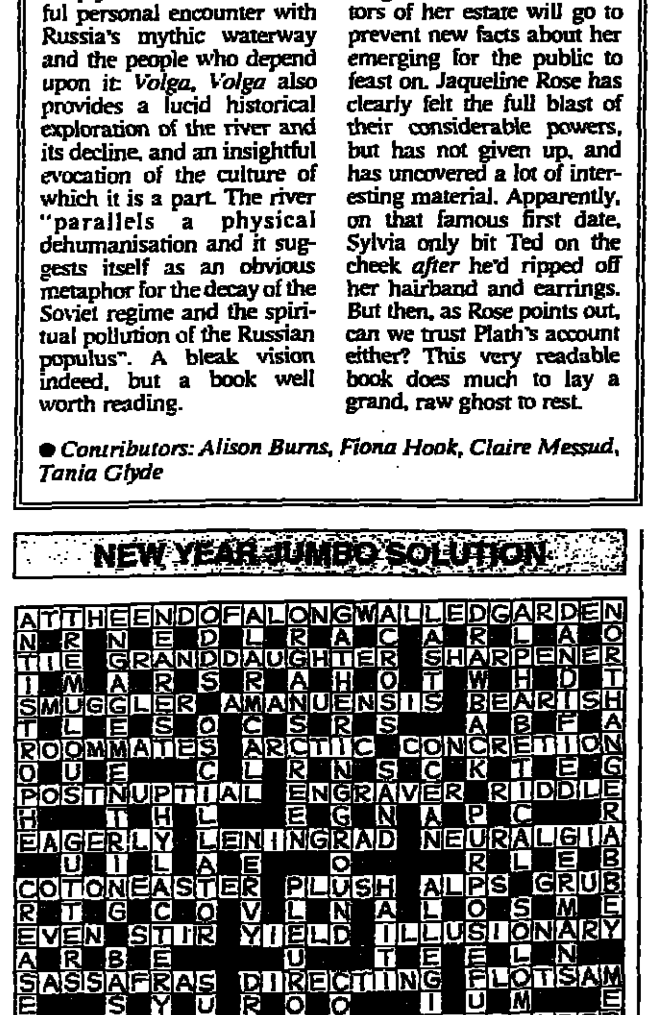
LESLEY Chamberlain's engrossing account of her journey down the Volga does not simply describe her colourful personal encounter with Russia's mythic waterway and the people who depend upon it: *Volga, Volga* also provides a lucid historical exploration of the river and its decline, and an insightful evocation of the culture of which it is a part. The river "parallels a physical dehumanisation and it suggests itself as an obvious metaphor for the decay of the Soviet regime and the spiritual pollution of the Russian populus". A bleak vision indeed, but a book well worth reading.

■ THE HAUNTING OF SYLVIA PLATH
By Jaqueline Rose
Virago, £8.99

SYLVIA PLATH'S real selling point now seems to be the very public lengths her ex-husband, the poet Ted Hughes, and fellow executors of her estate will go to prevent new facts about her emerging for the public to feast on. Jaqueline Rose has clearly felt the full blast of their considerable powers, but has not given up, and has uncovered a lot of interesting material. Apparently, on that famous first date, Sylvia only bit Ted on the cheek *after* he'd ripped off her hairband and earrings. But then, as Rose points out, can we trust Plath's account either? This very readable book does much to lay a grand, raw ghost to rest.

● *Contributors: Alison Burns, Fiona Hook, Claire Messud, Tania Glyde*

NEW YEAR JUMBO SOLUTION



The winner of the New Year Jumbo Crossword, published on December 30, is Geoffrey Beale, of Burgess Hill, W. Sussex, who will receive £100 and a Methuselah of Moët & Chandon champagne.

The five runners-up, who will each receive £100, are: Glyn Jones of Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire; Sue Blakely of Wotton, Surrey; Gordon Lee of Newcastle upon Tyne; Ian Smart of Ledminster, Hereford & Worcester; and Irene Winslow of Doncaster, S. Yorkshire.

Facing a Parliament of fouls

Edwina Currie's new blockbuster sticks to its feminist agenda, says **Elizabeth Buchan**

■ A WOMAN'S PLACE
By Edwina Currie
Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99

PARLIAMENT is not a merciful place and the spectacle of a politican licking her wounds fascinatingly overlays the professional slickness of Edwina Currie's sequel to *A Parliamentary Affair*.

The plot rattles away. Divorced and now parted from Roger Dickson, her lover and the new Prime Minister, Elaine Stalker has been promoted to junior minister at the Department of Health, Welfare and the Family. America has a female President, a single currency unites Europe, but not Britain, and President Chirac has 12 women in his Cabinet.

Elaine is immediately thrown into combat with her seniors at the ministry. Bampton, an old lag, is hostile and ruthless. Harrison is a compulsive womaniser to whom the word "integrity" is foreign. The civil servants pursue their own objectives. Meanwhile, she meets George Horrocks: divorced, loving, good at wiping away Elaine's "hot, little tears" and — save us — an excellent cook. Should she, can she devote more time to this paradigm?

Elaine is also worried about her daughter, who is recovering from a rape and the interest displayed in her by Betts, a ghastly hack. Finally, there is Graham, a mental patient at large in the community with a fixation on Elaine. Loaded with — justifiable — ironies, matters are brought to a head over the closure of a mental hospital.

Hints of vendetta, gossip, playful reference to the figures we know and love and skilful plundering of topical issues fuel the jolly Post-Modernist jostle between the real and the fictional. (By the end of the book, a retired Michael Heseltine has lost his hair and Teresa Gorman "has stopped taking the tablets and shrunk to a benign little granny" — crude perhaps, but it has the satisfying crunch of a well-aimed slug.) Clearly, the author understands the ingredients of the "big" read, milks her feminist agenda appropriately and throws in a bit of special pleading. "Ordinary people," George concludes, musing on his love, "do not aspire to become MPs, let alone ministers."

Now we know. Yet what gives the novel its bottom and immediacy is its portrait of life at Westminster: its smothering, exhausting, destabilising ethos, the damage it inflicts on family life, its huge frustrations. "Brussels on one side and quangos on the other. Decisions are taken by others but the Government is held to account."

Putting the stiletto into politics

"I feel as though I'm vanishing," Elaine cries and if she cannot dodge round the posts, then Parliament is a dehumanising place indeed.

Brush strokes and flesh tones

■ SUMMER IN FEBRUARY
By Jonathan Smith
Little, Brown, £12.99

IF YOU are going to put real people in a novel — often a dubious enterprise — artists are the best choice. They are more likely to drink, have busy, complicated sex lives and live and work in interesting and beautiful surroundings than, say, structural engineers or microbiologists.

For *Summer in February*, Jonathan Smith has focused on the group of painters who settled in Lamorna Cove in Cornwall just before the First World War. Their leader was Alfred Munnings, a future president of the Royal Academy, but then as a young painter of exceptional promise, a reckless, lewd, laddish tosspot, redeemed by his talent and his gift for friendship. Laura Knight, already painting her splashy, vigorous canvases, is captivated by Munnings; her fastidious artist husband, Harold, less so.

Oddly, Munnings's closest chum is a diligent Army officer turned land agent, Captain Gilbert Evans, who is everything that Munnings is not: a model of rectitude, decency and restraint. Proving that they have at least one thing in common, they both fall in love with the same girl: Florence Carter-Wood, newly arrived in Cornwall to study with the renowned art teacher Stanhope Forbes.

As capricious as she is beautiful, Florence marries Munnings and then discovers that Gilbert is the one she really loves. The price she pays for choosing the wrong man is a terrible one and casts shadows over the lives of the two men, haunting them down all the years.

This is a book rich in incident and richer still in its subtle and intricate analysis of emotional depths. It is also a meticulous re-creation of artistic life near the beginning of this century. The glittering Cornish coastline, the ravishing flesh tones of artists' models are always described in a painterly way as, for instance, when the sea lifts itself up "in big, long surges of grey lit up by a multitude of white dots", or when Laura Knight, eyeing up Florence, thinks that she has "the tone and quality of a quiet sitting-room". It is as though a fascinating picture has been captured in words.

PENNY PERRICK

Editor in love child snatch bid

■ IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ENEMY
By Elizabeth George
Bantam, £16.99

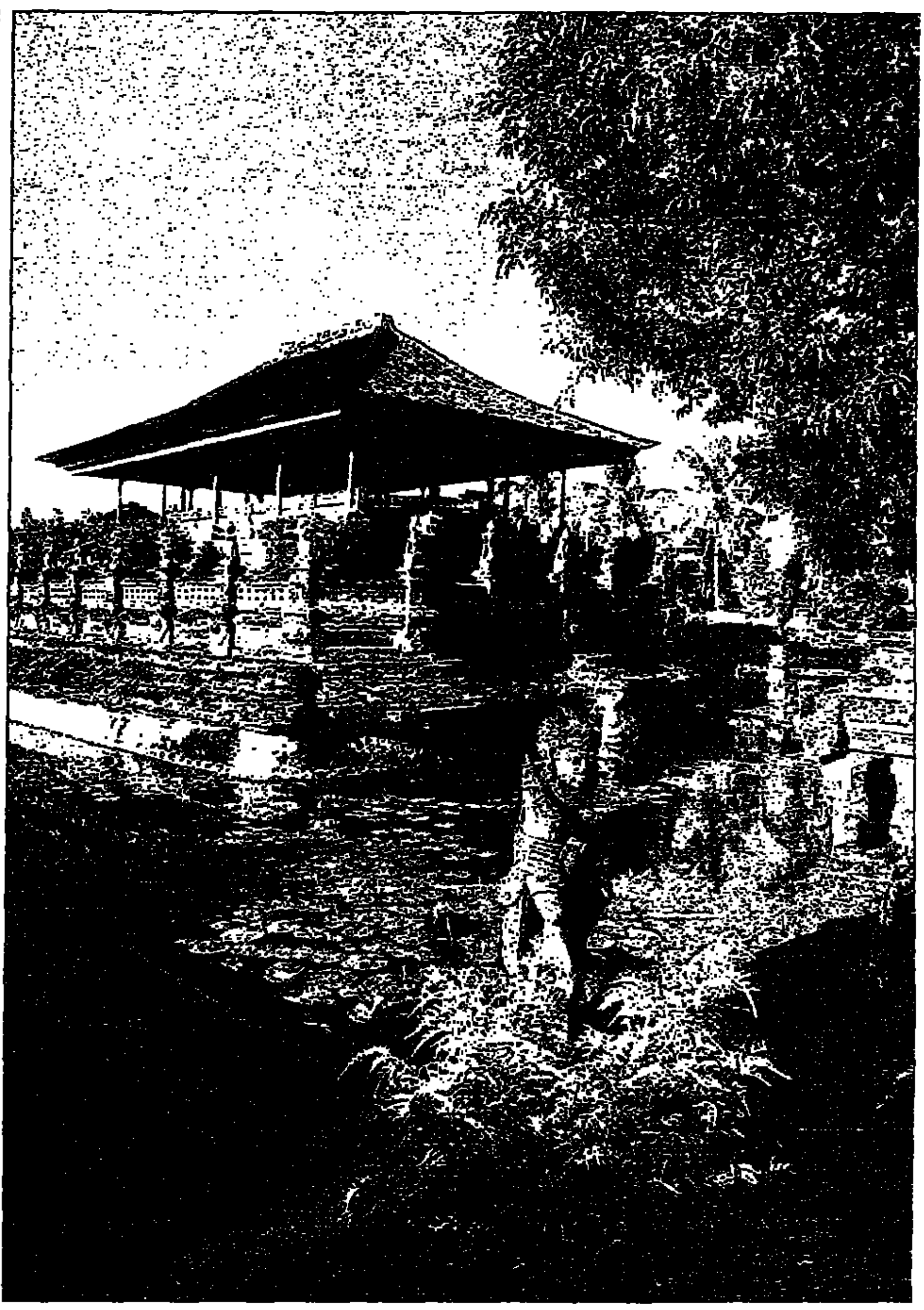
DENNIS LUXFORD, editor of *The Source*, tabloid scourge of Tory sleaze, is a journalist of limited moral integrity but he has kept one sensational secret about a minister, even though its disclosure could topple the Government. Charlotte, the ten-year-old daughter of the ambitious, high-flying Home Office minister Eve Bowen, is his, conceived during a few nights of passion at an annual party conference in Blackpool, when he was a mere political reporter and she a young MP. Their brief liaison was revealed to nobody; they had never met since. Then Charlotte is kidnapped and her abductor demands that Luxford splashes his parental responsibility on *The Source's* front page. But who else could have known of it?

The search for Charlotte, secret at first because Bowen believes the abduction to be a trick by Luxford, turns into a wider inquiry when there is another kidnapping. The toff Detective Inspector Lynley, his love-life at a crossroads, and his earthy sidekick Sergeant Havers, her love-life non-existent, investigate in London and the Wiltshire countryside. After an awkward, not very believable start a few books ago, their professional partnership has developed interestingly.

Elizabeth George believes in giving her characters room to develop. Bowen's cold dislike of Luxford, the dishonest marriages which both have contrived and the lack of warmth and understanding towards their children are conveyed with subtlety and fine writing. George is also a superb purveyor of fear, malevolent atmosphere (never has Wiltshire seemed so scary) and warped minds. She has researched well: the worlds of Parliament and tabloid journalism have the whiff of veracity. Above all, she has a gift for sheer storytelling and invention — in spades.

Nobody can accuse George of short-changing her readers in volume. This is a long, intricate book, at nearly 500 pages. Yet so cleverly does she manage the narrative threads, so convincingly do her characters behave on the edge of their emotions, so startling are the twists to her tale that I could have read more.

MARCEL BERLINS



Paradise regained: pavilion in a royal garden, from *Balinese Gardens*, photographs by Luca Invernizzi Tettoni, text by William Warren (Thames & Hudson, £29.95)

Andrew Knight traces the pugnacious career of a Canadian press mogul with a mushrooming global empire

Black rises out of the blue

■ SHADES OF BLACK
By Richard Siklos
Heinemann, £20

IN 1985, Conrad Black's company bought 14 per cent of *The Daily Telegraph*. The next year he controlled 57 per cent, and then more. This was at a time when his company was so short of cash that in early 1986 the hard-won *Telegraph* majority almost had to be handed away.

In 1987, he bought *The Spectator* and later, for the first time in living memory, made it profitable. In 1989 he purchased the *Jerusalem Post*, Israel's English-language daily which is notably read in New York and elsewhere.

In 1991, he acquired management control and 15 per cent (later raised to 25 per cent) of Australia's press jewel, the Fairfax papers — after a bruising struggle. How long Black's companies can maintain this control seems uncertain from this book but, in the meantime, he has improved the company and made a bomb.

Early in 1993, he finally added a holding in the large Southam chain in Canada to his extensive sprinkle of tiny North American papers, after years of tracking it hopefully. In uneasy partnership with a bigger financier than himself, he now controls Southam. By Christmas that year he added the *Sun-Times* of Chicago to be an American flagship. And to his mansions in Kensington, Toronto and Miami, he added a flagship apartment in Park Avenue.

Black, in short, is a press tycoon — not yet a large one by some standards, but one who means to be large. This book will have a large readership in Canada, for it is the best of several. Even the chunks I thought I could skip — in Israel, Australia and Canada — told such compelling business stories that I could not put it down. The biography is lively, broadly accurate, none of its slight errors harming the general truth of a well-researched tale.

Friendlier than some would be, Richard Siklos penetrates Black's "thin skin" accurately, using humorously his closest associates' and indeed Black's own words throughout. Invective worthy of a communist dictator — cockroach, mendacity, sniggering, puerile, boot-lickers, degradation — allusions to Nazi massacres and a war-chest of other historical similes, not to mention a special line in malapropism, are the stocks in trade of the "verbal punch-ups" which Black "enjoys". He seems constantly to reassure himself that he is a worthy successor to his colourful and, in the end, reclusive father.

Black: happy to share the joke

The result is odd. Black has sued for libel repeatedly, like Robert Maxwell, and always won well short of the court steps. His financial shuffling of assets has yielded the values necessary to buy newspapers, frequently crossing the line of controversy but never, so far as one can see, of probity. Along the way his tirades have become a joke, relished as much by himself as anyone.

All his newspapers have improved, though to hear some in Jerusalem, Sydney and Melbourne, you would not credit it. When he joined the big league at the *Telegraph*, he understood that quality and character can go hand in hand with cost-cutting — can, in fact, be enhanced by it. That lesson has been spread elsewhere.

Insecurity was a useful tool in the education of the neophyte press lord. "Whenever he met anybody that he looked up to or that he was impressed by, he always wanted to know what they thought of him." "Conrad's role to some extent is to ingratiate himself in certain circles" from which new leads, partners or influence might be found. His galactic board meetings are, William Buckley says, "a little bit dizzy", loaded up, adds Black, "with important people who can be helpful".

"Sometimes inclined to give the benefit of the doubt to apparently very rich men", Black is, in sum, refreshingly politically incorrect. A joke himself, "he's always laughing, either with or at people". This may surprise many who have been intimidated by his heavy look, wearied by lengthy history lessons, or have sat through his "extremely orotund and boring" public speeches. Black has a lot yet to prove, but this skilful and friendly book may help to give him the self-confidence to prove it.

● *Andrew Knight was chief executive of* The Daily Telegraph *from 1986 to 1989 and executive chairman of* News International.

Maybe it's because he's a Londoner

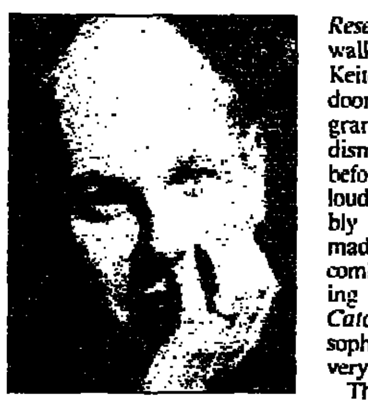
■ A WHITE MERC WITH FINS
By James Hawes
Jonathan Cape, £12.99

THE FIRST few pages of James Hawes's much-hyped new novel test the reader's endurance to the limit. It is all so aggressive and hip and generally in-your-face; get ready for wall-to-wall F-words and overgrown boys with plastic guns who want to be Quentin Tarantino. It is also one of those designed-to-frustrate jump starts which plunge you into a conversation you have no grasp of and no hope of understanding until you have read the whole book and then go back to the beginning again.

However, if you hold fast and break through to chapter two, Hawes gets into his stride and starts pulling you into his male protagonist's wry, downbeat take on what you do when life somehow does not deliver what college and middle-class aspirations led you to expect. Suddenly, he says, "the brief yoof-socialist near-equality of college is gone" and you are out there on the dole with no prospects, while former soulmates head off to Mummy's spare flat in South Ken.

You are left with a future in which an underfunded lower-middle-class background means that "you can never quite look at Life's Great Menu without your eyes drifting towards the Special Offer Set Dinner". It is a short walk from here to the hinterland of drugs and small-time criminal acquaintances, as the hero and his girlfriend/sidekick have already discovered, so they decide to make a do-or-die break for it by robbing a private bank.

The whole satire pivots on class awareness, inhabiting classic chip-on-shoulder territory. Yet Hawes pumps so much up-front humour into his characters that they win you over, despite all their infuriating political posturing in this world where being HIV positive gives you extra points for cool. From the brain-dead *Reservoir Dogs* groupie who walks around in a Harvey Keitel suit to the 50-year-old doorman who dotes on his grandchildren but can still dismember several opponents before breakfast, the cast is loud and rude and inexplicably endearing. The prose is made to match — fast-paced, combative dialogue alternating with the narrator's sub-*Catcher in the Rye* philosophising, entirely in slang, very London.



Hawes: combative dialogue

The plan for the heist is not bad at all and makes good watching as it gathers speed. The book's references are so specifically located that none of it will mean anything in about 18 months' time, but by then we shall all have seen the film version and Hawes will be busy spending the proceeds.

HARRIET PATERSON

When is a shop not a shop?

Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

RECORDINGS

NEW ON CD: Mercury's jazz gems; overripe cheese; evocative guitar concertos; English opera voices from the 1940s

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ **CLAIRE MARTIN**
Offbeat
Linn AKD-046★★

THE outstanding British jazz singer of the 1990s, Claire Martin is another artist who spurns extravagance, in the process reducing each song to its essence. Recorded live at Ronnie Scott's, *Offbeat* showcases her unorthodox taste in modern lyrics — Laura Nyro, Phoebe Snow and Stevie Wonder are all represented. As a balladeer she leaves her most intense displays to the very end, on Wonder's *Make Sure You're Sure* and *Some Other Time* from the worldly partnership of Bernstein, Comden and Green.

Martin: no extravagance

☐ **VARIOUS ARTISTS**
The Mercury Records Jazz Story
Verve 523688-2 (2 CDs)★★★

HOW many people, if asked to name the leading jazz labels of the past half century, would put Mercury near the top of their list? Not many, I suspect. Compared with the sharply defined hard-bop ethos of Blue Note's 1950s output, for example, Mercury and its various offshoots appeared happy to pursue half a dozen different music policies at any given time.

If that was not so good for the all-important corporate image, it makes for a provocative, multicoloured anthology — not to mention an indispensable jazz primer. Though most of the material is drawn from the 1950s and 1960s, Dan Morgenstern's selection throws together a pot-pourri of traditions, hopping from Dinah Washington backed by Clark Terry and Paul Gonsalves on *I Cried for You* to Muggsy Spanier playing *Feather Brain*, from Roland Kirk's supercharged *3-in-1 Without the Oil* to Eddie South's defiantly olde-worlde violin on *I Hadn't Anyone till You*.

Intentionally or not, the juxtapositions occasionally seem downright mischievous. Buddy DeFranco's clarinet busily disposes of *Scrapple from the Apple*, yet Pee Wee Russell's contribution on *Sugar*, performed by George Wein's Newport All Stars, shows what can be done with the minimum of artifice.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ **VARIOUS ARTISTS**
The Look of Love — The Classic Songs of Burt Bacharach
Polygram TV 535 190★

SO, the word on the street is that easy-listening is hip and cheesy is chic. In a bizarre turn of events, the melodically impoverished children of the techno generation have taken a shine to the music of their grandparents. Forget Moby and the Chemical Brothers; Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and Matt Monro are the "new" names to drop.

Call me old-fashioned, but it was in order to avoid precisely these people that I started listening to pop music in the first place. Now comes *The Look of Love*, a compilation of songs written by two of the biggest cheeses of them all, Burt Bacharach and Hal David (although David's contribution seems to have been quietly airbrushed out of the new Bacharach mythology). And just because I can hum virtually every tune on the album does not mean I wish to hear any of them again now.

Still, here on one handy disc are the songs that have driven lift engineers and supermarket staff to distraction for 30 years or more: *The Look of Love, Do You Know the Way to San Jose, Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head, Trains and Boats and Planes, Alfie, I'll Never Fall in Love Again, You'll Never Get to Heaven (If You Break My Heart)* and many more.

Although these are the original recordings by the stars that made them hits in the first place — Dusty Springfield, Dionne Warwick, B. J. Thomas, Billy J. Kramer, Cilla Black, Bobby Gentry, the Stylistics and all the rest — the assaults which these songs have suffered nightly in cocktail lounges and karoake bars the world over have taken their toll.

And to think, we fought through two Woodstocks for this.

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ **DUFFY**
Needle Mythology
Indolent DUFF 004★★

SEVENTEEN years after he dropped out of Duran Duran and 11 years since his only hits (*Kiss Me* and *Icing on the Cake*), time is not on Stephen Duffy's side. Timing is not his strong point either, and although his self-titled album, released last August, bore all the hallmarks of classic British pop, trying to smuggle him into the charts under the Britpop banner never looked like a serious ploy.

But you cannot blame him for trying, and his new single, *Needle Mythology*, is a crisp tune that falls somewhere between the orthodox songwriting style of Squeeze and the more up-to-date sound of, say, the Lightning Seeds.

Duffy: well-intentioned

Its anti-heroin lyric is well-intentioned if rather literal — "Why make your drug of choice your goodbye to the world?" — but Duffy sings it with just the right degree of world-weary detachment, while guitars and an electric piano twinkle brightly.

It is a deft, understated piece, and again Duffy has captured a mood that is more timeless than timely.

20TH CENTURY

Barry Millington

■ **CORIGLIANO/ SCHWANTNER/FOSS**
American Landscapes: Guitar Concertos
Isbin/Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra/Wolff
Virgin VC 5 55083 2★★★

FEW guitarists have done more to expand the repertoire for their instrument than the brilliant virtuoso Sharon Isbin. Certainly Isbin has commissioned more concertos for the guitar than anybody else, and three of them — all by American composers — are here in premiere recordings. All three make imaginative use of the intimate nature of the guitar, with the result that these are essentially pieces of evocation and fantasy rather than vehicles for display.

John Corigliano, best known for his opera *The Ghosts of Versailles*, takes the opportunity to retreat from the spotlight, looking back across the centuries for his inspiration to the courtly love tradition of the medieval troubadours. His *Troubadours*, subtitled *Variations for Guitar and Orchestra*, conjures the sonorities of that world, subtly dissolving them into a nostalgic haze.

Joseph Schwantner's *From Afar* has more drama, but also a strong feeling for colour and atmosphere, superbly caught by Isbin and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra under Hugh Wolff.

Lukas Foss's *American Landscapes for Guitar and Orchestra* is different again. Drawing on the folksy American tradition to which the guitar is central, Foss intercuts pastoral sequences with snatches of jigs and reels. Nifty fingerwork and improvisatory skills are called for in the spirited finale, which whirls to an anarchically Ivesian conclusion amid strains of *America the Beautiful*.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ **BEETHOVEN**
String Quartets Op 18 No 3 & Op 130
Emerson String Quartet
DG 449 505-2★★★

HARD on the heels of the Lindsays' cycle at the Wigmore Hall, the Emerson Quartet has just arrived at the Queen Elizabeth Hall for a ten-day session of the complete Beethoven string quartets. Meanwhile, this disc provides a sampler of its style.

The Emersons now play with an authority and polish which mark them out as *éminences demi-grises* of their profession. Where the Lindsays take risks, the Emersons view the music from above, their part-writing finely honed, chording mahogany-grained and each note trimly tucked into place in the Presto finale of the Op 18 No 3.

Their performance of the Op 130, with the *Grosse Fuge*, is magisterial. The contrasts of its opening are carved out fearlessly, while the players maintain a clear, strong view of the work's grand design. The Presto is secretive; the Cavatina tremulous with a real sense of music heard in the innermost being of the composer; and the great fugue fully captures the mystery and awe of its making.

☐ **KREMERATA MUSICA**
Mahler, Schoenberg, Webern, etc
Kremer/Maisenberg/
Meyer, etc
DG 447 112-2★★★

THIS is like an exuberant little chamber-music festival on disc: works by Mahler, Schoenberg, Berg and Webern bounce bright light off each other in these spirit-cleansing performances by violinist Gidon Kremer and friends. The innocent ear would be hard put to identify the composer of the 1876 Piano Quartet of track one; but this student work of the 16-year-old Mahler is given a properly impassioned performance. Then comes an early work by Schoenberg. Kremer and Oleg Maisenberg make this tiny, recently discovered early piece in D minor for violin and piano a real spring song.

Kremer: soul-cleansing

The 15-year-old Webern wrote *two* pieces for cello and piano, which Maisenberg and Clemens Hagen reveal as dreamlike glimpses of the extreme distillations to come. Here are the tiny, prismatic Four Pieces for Violin and Piano of 1910, and the even tinier bright splinters of the Three Little Pieces for Cello and Piano of 1914. And in between these glinting performances comes Berg's Four Pieces for Clarinet and Piano, in which Sabine Meyer luxuriates in the composer's miniature expressionist art.

The programme ends with Berg's pungent arrangement for clarinet, violin and piano of the Adagio from the Chamber Concerto, and with Schoenberg's last instrumental works, the String Trio of 1946 and the Phantasie for Violin and Piano of 1949, each pushed to its expressive limits.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ **STARS OF ENGLISH OPERA**
Dutton CDLX 7018★★

■ **A TRIBUTE TO DENNIS NOBLE**
Various orchestras
Dutton CDLX 7017★★

A MORE appropriate title might have been *Stars of Opera in English*. There is precious little English opera in these recordings, taken mainly from the 1940s and remastered to a very high standard by the small firm of Dutton. But the artists all sing in their native language and with what clarity. Scarcely a syllable is missing among these voices carrying a cut-glass accent or two.

John Hargreaves damning the courtiers in *Rigoletto* sounds like Noel Coward bucking up the chaps in *In Which We Serve* and Gladys Ripley cursing Eboli's fatal beauty in *Don Carlos* has all the irritation of a hostess whose cucumber sandwiches are not quite right. But there are treasures elsewhere, especially among the tenors. Heddle Nash is present, showing exquisite and sustained mezza voce in Nadir's aria from *The Pearl Fishers*. David Lloyd, a colleague at prewar Glyndebourne, less well known but with a weightier voice, comes across as an expert Mozartian. And there is James Johnston, several years before Covent Garden cast him opposite Callas, robust and easy in *The Bartered Bride*.

The Commonwealth singers include Joan Hammond in a very early recording of *O my beloved father*, the Puccini that was to become her calling card — a bit rough and she was later to do much better under Walter Legge. Oscar Natzka, from New Zealand, relishes Falstaff's drinking song from *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Karl Rankl and the Covent Garden Orchestra back him in a way that suggests some of the flak that the German conductor had to endure when he was trying to re-establish the Royal Opera after the war might have been misdirected.

Dennis Noble, possibly London's most famous Rossini Figaro in the 1930s and 1940s, gets a CD to himself. He gallops through *I'm the factotum* in fewer than four minutes in a record made at the start of his career in 1929. When he came back to it ten years later he took another 30 seconds, a track included in the *Stars* issue. With Webster Booth as Almaviva, Noble shows real style in the Act I duet as aristo and barber work out how to get at Rosina.

Noble's repertoire was considerable and he ranged easily from Mozart's Figaro telling Cherubino what to expect ("Here's an end to your romps in the hay, lad/Here's an end to the life that is gay, lad") to Verdi's Iago.

Nash: exquisite mezza voce

It is a pity that the selection contains no Puccini, but it does have a delectably sentimental Sterndale Bennett number of a late-night carouser returning home to a faithful hound: "A rough-haired pup/Will be sitting up/To say good night to you". Gerald Moore, the accompanist, was doubtless wagging his tail at the piano.

How about a James Johnston issue next?

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

NEW ON VIDEO: Gorillas to be missed; nature under a surrealist's microscope; royal suicide made painless

Too much monkey business: Dylan Walsh shares his reading with Amy, the talking gorilla, in Frank Marshall's low-grade hokum, *Congo*

■ **CONGO**
CIC, 12, 1995

VIEWERS starved of fantasy escapism may find relief in the diamond hunters, gorillas and volcanoes thrown together in this surprisingly low-grade hokum from director Frank Marshall, adapted from Michael Crichton's book. Sometimes the film tries to be cute; sometimes it aims to scare. The script is usually not up to either task, but the unstarry cast plough ahead regardless. Principal curiosities include Amy, the talking gorilla, and Tim Curry's amusing turn as a shady entrepreneur from Romania. Available to rent.

■ **KISS OF DEATH**
FoxGuild, 18, 1995

DAVID CARUSO found his first film role outside *NYPD Blue* as the vulnerable former convict trying to go straight in this partial remake of the famous 1947 thriller. But he becomes wallpaper whenever Nicolas Cage barges in as Little Junior, a nasty gangster bulging with muscles: a performance with all the realism of a circus clown. Barbet Schroeder's film boasts a script by the esteemed Richard Price, but any sympathy for the Caruso character's plight is increasingly trampled by gaudy artifice. A rental release.

■ **HALLOWE'EN**
MIA, 18, 1978

THE FILM that spawned a thousand bad imitations returns to video in a digitally remastered, widescreen edition that includes the original trailer. A small Illinois town is the setting; the time, of course, is Hallowe'en, when babysitters and their friends, led by Jamie Lee Curtis, face the attentions of a maniac who likes to celebrate by slicing people with a butcher's knife. Director John Carpenter does his best to frighten the life out of us, though he does not forget humour: there are plenty of in-jokes for movie buffs.

■ **SURREALISM AND SCIENCE**
Academy, E

A COMPILATION of the remarkable, beautiful and often unnerving films of Jean Painlevé, the French documentary maker whose short studies, mostly of marine life, combine a scientist's passion for detail with a surrealist's love for the bizarre. The films were made between 1926 and 1976. Highlights include a gruesome homage to the vampire bat (matched to the music of Duke Ellington) and various magnified studies, in glorious colour, of the sexual behaviour of octopuses and shellfish. You may never want to eat seafood again.

■ ***MAYERLING***
Lumiere, PG, 1969

CINEMA'S third rendition of Crown Prince Rudolf's misalliance with a commoner is not so much a slice of history, more a slice of cake: the film is top-heavy with imperial bric-à-brac, ornate scenery and tearful music from Francis Lai. Omar Sharif and Catherine Deneuve, as the star-crossed lovers, look very pretty but drown among the trappings: the performance you notice above all is James Robertson Justice's jovial Prince of Wales. Also starring Ava Gardner. Directed by Terence Young.

■ **TALES OF ORDINARY MADNESS**
Art House, 18, 1981

THE TALES, derived from Charles Bukowski's writings, are spun by a sodden American poet staggering through life with a bottle in his hand, self-pity on his lips and lust in his head. Ben Gazzara shows little flair in the role, while Italian director Marco Ferreri, once a byword for purposeful anarchy, merely offers the inert presentation of unendifying shocks. Woe betide us if he ever tackles extraordinary madness.

GEOFF BROWN

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PROF lady 43, N/S, attractive loving & giving, likes sailing walking, theatre, countryside antiques, family life WLTM tall gentleman to share life. Photo plse Dorset/Hants Box 3151

SLIM 35 yr old female, romantic, various interests, WLTM caring male for genuine relationship Photo appre. Box No 3251

SOFT CENTERED, independent, adventurous, attractive, feminine, professional lady Dark haired, mid-40's, 5 9" Living in middle of England but often in London Happy walking in the country or riding in style Enjoys good conversation eating-out, music (Beatles to Brahms), Theatre, Golf, Tennis and all things equestrian. Seeks out-going, sensitive man, 40-55 with GSOH and huge appetite for life. Please Reply to Box No 3137

SPORTS CAR with elegant, witty owner, seeks parking space adjacent n/s 46+ male counterpart; wellies Glos/ Worcs border, posh frock in London Reply to Box No 3012

STYLISH, attractive, articulate & amusing graduate, 41, seeks Christian man with drive, direction, the Holy Spirit and good sense of humour (36-46), N/S Cambridgeshire. Please Reply with to Box No 2889

STYLISH Redhead seeks rugged brainy 38-60 Celt or similar for mutual life enhancement. Please Reply to Box No 3174

SUSSEX widow, 59, enjoys music, countryside, bridge. WLTM similar intelligent gent for companionship Please Reply to Box No 3120

TALL, slim warmhearted London based lady, seeks interesting man, fifties - early sixties preferably who likes river boating, opera, food, drink & having fun. N/S Box No 3046

TOWARDS 2000 - entering a new centuray alone is not ideal A slim good looking widow, 48, affectionate, cultured, well educated/travelled, missing male companionship WLTM a tallish prof man of similar background, 50/65, to share occasional evenings/ days out and perhaps some of the next millenium. W London, Reply with photo to Box No 3138

UNPRETENTIOUS Kent lady seeks gentleman 58 - 68 (approx) to enjoy laughter, loving - (her cooking!), Please Reply to Box No 3233

VERY attractive "classy" lady. Successful career, slim, athletic and blonde, 38, with all the right attributes; seeks balanced, non-smoking man Age and looks unimportant All letters answered. Please Reply to Box No 3055

WANTED by presentable, amiable London based widow an interesting, intelligent, nice man 66+ with cultural and sporting interests for happy sharing Please Reply to Box No 3027

WANTED (preferably alive) Attractive tall honest, intelligent kind man with GSOH age 33-43. Information leading to whereabouts of this elusive male guarantees reply from attractive blue eyed brunette, age 36, genuine intelligent and fun loving Enjoys skiing travel and good conversation. Mugshot please to Box No 3265

WANTED - by an attractive tall cosmopolitan lady, mid fifties, a wealthy gentleman to pamper me, who needs a friend, lover and confidente Yorks/NE Photo please to Box No 3183

WARM witty intelligent lady very attractive, slim young 43 No ties, no hangups WLTM kind, easy-going man for friendship fun & romance Possible permanent position for right candidate Herts North London Reply to Box No 3243

WIMBLEDON blonde - no baggage - hates being alone - seeking 40 - something, slim outgoing man who enjoys socialising and arts outings. Please Reply to Box No 3168

ZINFANDEL or Pinot Noir? If you know the difference we should meet! American lady lived central London some years, slim, elegant 40's seeks intelligent man with style Please reply Box No 3165

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday Call free 0800 141 141

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO:

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LONDON, E1 9GA

GENTLEMEN

ABRAND New Man, not boring, not ugly, not fat, not British 40, seeks a lady London/SE Please Reply to Box No 2880

A HAPPY uncomplicated easy going lady around 45-55 sought by caring, successful, well travelled 6', divorced N/S company director, located S Devon Photo appr Reply Box No 3236

A MALE 46, athletic, reportedly attractive, warm, laid back, Oxbridge, airline pilot, speak several languages, divorced but financially o.k. seeks intelligent, attractive, relaxed, warm, successful female, who wants love, children, and, well that sort of thing, as much as I do Please Reply to Box No 2929

ANGLO-IRISH professional, 27 Got the MBA blues! Wants intelligent female to add spice to his playtime Photo NOT essential Culture, SOH and a brain are! London/SE Box No 3169

ANTIQUES dealer (Roger Moore lookalike but early 60's). Slim, tall & handsome Well educated read, spoken, mannered & dressed. A cultured man with many interests but not stuffy or opinionated Quite the opposite A warm & sensitive man with a marvelous outgoing personality. N/S Own business London/ Home Counties Financially sound. Seeks professional lady counterpart circa 40-50 Details please with tel number & recent photo Please Reply to Box No 3047

ARE you looking for an honest, tactile, close relationship with a London Businessman (45) who has a passion for skiing tennis and romantic fireside evenings If you are also independant, 30-39, passionate with gsoh, reply with photo to Box No 3048

ARTICULATE good looking, warm, loving successful, Englishman, 43, ready to shower that special woman with love, and make that ultimate partnership, seeks a stunningly beautiful woman (in my eyes at least) Nationality unimportant but easy, placid nature an asset Ideally she will have a kind, loving, sincere, earthy personality, up to 30 yrs, 5'6" petite, slim But who knows! Contact Paul, with plain photo & telno. Mine by return (No 'girls about town' though, plse) No 2877

ARTS loving lady, c. 65 years needed. She should be slim, sybaritic, Surrey/London, N/S and perhaps be my Papagena! Photo plse to Box No 3173

ATTRACTIVE, tall, single, professional, 32, Berks likes cinema, music, sport and dining out Seeks n/s soulmate (25-35) for freindship, fun and romance Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 2966

BEAR, handsome, bright & kind male, 38, growls at polished ice in his castle because she isn't here, yet? Reply Box No 2773

ZZZzzz Wake up! Close Encounters is open Saturday and Sunday Call free 0800 141 141.

GENTLEMEN

AUTUMN must have faded and now is the winter of my discontent. Sophisticated, elegant (25-37) ice maiden with zest for life sought by 35 yr old 6'0" tall, dark handsome successful international business executive for winter fun and to celebrate summer solstice in the sun. Photo & telephone no essential London, South Thames Valley Home Counties Box No 3149

AVIATION Consultant tall slim, good looking 64 located in London, who enjoys travel, walking, dancing and the arts, seeks that elusive compatible lady with similar interest, for lasting relationship Photo appreciated Box No 3056

BRILLIANT successful man of science, 41, Edinburgh based Handsome 6 ft 13.5 st, fell running. Tough yet gentle experienced yet exciting GSOH Loves dance arts film, travel, music seeks Ms Right before shelf life expires. Reply with photo to Box No 3143

BRITISH professional mid fifties, Graduate central London based after many years abroad would like to meet attractive lady 40-60 Cultural interests and international outlook most likely to lead to compatibility Please include photo with reply Box No 3185

BUSINESSMAN 50 very solvent, easy going kind, generous with integrity WLTM slim attractive lady N/S London/SE Photo please Please Reply to Box No 2853

CARING, cultured mid-50's professional man (educator, writer), divorced, interested music all arts travel, music, outdoors, sun, good food. GSOH. WLTM similar lady NE/anywhere Box No 3017

CARING Romantic & sensitive London teacher mid 50's tall slim n/s, seeks 40's lady to explore arts travel, love life Photo apprec Box No 2393

CITY guy 46 N/S fit Tactile GSOH, seeks lady friend for adventurous fun day & night Please Reply to Box No 3230

CITY lawyer, 43, Jewish witty, musical seeks attractive educated lady, preferably 30s, GSOH must be non smoker Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 2952

CLASSICAL composer/pianist, fit, solvent, WLTM n.s partner musicienne to retire to France Please Reply to Box No 2941

DOCTOR, attractive well travelled into positive living, music, outdoor pursuits, WLTM educated cultured woman 25-35 Please Reply to Box No 3264

FIRST time advertised Stunningly attractive tall slim 30-35 yr old, intelligent, well spoken, sports female sought by similar (except the stunningly attractive bit) male with lifestyle guarantee Photo with reply please to Box No 3019

FUN & loving 41 yr old guy, tall, dark and slim, GSOH, non academic but successful used to some of life's nicer things but happy with my middle class surroundings A young at heart Romantic, also sincere & genuine. Likes good food, soft music, meeting people, fast cars & motor sport. WLTM a 28/38 slim & attractive special woman, must have a warm nature be able to give as well as take, put feelings before possessions!! And want to have fun times & tender moments together. North England/Scottish Borders Photo plse Box No 2887

GENTLEMAN of warmth, 46, tall, slim & attractive (of course) with GSOH, varied interests, both intellectual & sporty seeks an affectionate, elegant lady in 30's-40's for romance. Lives in Herts. Photo please to Box 2922

GENUINE successful company Chairman, athletic, rugged, handsome, 44 Loves children Non pretentious and fun seeks balanced lady Nationality and background not important All letters answered. Please reply to Box No 3032

GOOD looking Essex male (40) Widowed, GH Varied interests both intellectual and sporty Seeks soulmate (30-40) for friendship and romance Photo appreciated. Box No 3171

HAMPSHIRE based widower, retired & solvent trim & healthy, with varied interests Seeks a lady of similar circumstances for a genuine lasting relationship. Please write with photo to Box No 3049

HANDSOME hedonist, London based 38 year old, seeks sophisticated lady. He highly educated international businessman. She sparkles, loves travel, fine wine and dining, aged 24-34. Write with photo and tel number Box No 3142

HANDSOME London lawyer. I am a fit, 6 ft, n/s man 42, sociable, gentle & humorous with many interests. I seek an attractive, intelligent woman for friendship, tenderness, fun & all that life offers Photo & letter please Box No 3267

HANDSOME professional 35, tall dark warm personality, seeks attractive lady 20's-30's with style & sincerity to share quality time together London/ Berks Oxon area Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 3114

INCURABLE Romantic attractive tall slim 41 years, professional Surrey based fun loving man affectionate, sincere, with many interests including music cinema good food & fine wines, sports holidays even scuba diving seeks a like minded lady with or without children who will make those commuter trains & the jams worthwhile. Photo if possible Reply to Box No 3258

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INTERNATIONALLY travelled, divorced businessman, 6 ft tall, blonde with eyes of blue to hypnotise you. We will cry with joy, we will shout with pleasure as we enjoy our leisure together. To share is a must that without we do not just in thoughts but in possession too. Our trusts & fears we must express in our pursuit for happiness. The quality of life is then available and so is the relationship very stable. To us beauty as we see it, with wit and charm so be it. Your age can start at 35 with liking for man who also cares. Although I'm older I'm fit & able with various interests that I can table. Come on lets laugh & giggle too I could be just the man for you. Please Reply with photo to Box No 3096

LADIES! An offer you can't refuse!! Why write to 1 when 1 phone call introduces you to over 300 men? 25-69 - West Mids, Warks 0121 386 2234 - Worcs Hereford, Glocs Avon, 01594 836774 - Shrops Staffs, Cheshire, 01952 591941 - Notts Leics Derbs Lincs 0115 9377171 We guarantee you will join!! When you see our members photographs - Elite Introductions - The Leader others follow

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LADIES, why call long distance? Ring Mike or Sue at Close Encounters South West London 01932 783165

LONDON professional man, 38, seeks cultured lady with whom to enjoy art, films and European cities Reply Box 3127

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LOVING demonstrably affectionate, having achieved total success financially and professionally, I seek to achieve same in my personal life. The distinguished well dressed physically very attractive man in perfect condition is the veneer containing a very sensitive, artistic, tactile, sensual human being. Interests many, both physical & aesthetic. Passionately attached to my home near the Mediterranean in the South of France with its peace warmth & tranquility where I grow vines and orchids. Equally at home at Claridges, the George V, or a rustic cafe in France. I wish to enjoy and spend my life with a seriously attractive, slender, elegant, feminine, warm European lady capable of all the emotions with a joie de vivre. To achieve total fulfillment mutually is the aim. Photograph essential and letter please, all will receive the courtesy of a reply with return of photograph. South, South West London France Box No 3182

MY marvellous Godfather lovely village near London, young wife sadly died, highly eligible young 56+ deserves the best PLL n/s girl, probably 30s, shy. Write direct Box No 3021

OXFORD - OXFORD - OXFORD. Close Encounters is now open for introductions and social events. Call 01865 514140. Open 7 days.

NEW YEAR [illegible] 2 Genuine 1961 versions sought and in good working order would like to meet 2 attractive ladies 25-35 who like us seek the finer things in life but have yet to ultimately find them Please send a photo and phone number to Box No 3068. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

NORTHWEST gentleman mid 50's, well preserved & presentable, amusing & caring would like to meet curvaceous, warm & affectionate lady for long term friendship & love Photo please pls to Box No 2695

NOT exactly handsome but still considered attractive 53, 5'8" slim and fit. Solvent, cultured and stylish, humorous and good natured. Widowed a while back but now enjoying living in C London. Love walking, skiing, theatre, music, cinema, eating out. Long to meet the beautiful young woman (30's/40's) to make my heart skip a beat who also believes in love and marriage. I'm an optimist! Please send photo to Box No 3242

ONE woman man with old fashioned values, enjoying life to the full WLTM a slim lady 37-46 who still believes in love & marriage. I am a slim 5' 11" gentleman who enjoys theatre, music, walking talking, films, TV, dinners in, dinners out, cruises, etc. Connected to the medical profession, and have lots of patient TLC but only for life, not a short time. Would like to hear from anyone in London, Torquay or Midlands. Please reply with Photo to Box No 2865

SELF-MADE failure, no car, no house, no wife wishes to meet the lady with everything except perhaps a handsome partner, 50 6'2" Christian n/s with a career, many interests, no ties and a legendary sense of humour London, Surrey Hants Photo please Please Reply to Box No 2945

STATUESQUE lady sought by handsome solicitor 32, hopefully she's intelligent as well Photo guarantees response London/N Kent Please Reply to Box No 3257

STRAIGHTFORWARD, good looking mid 40's, businessman, 5'9", single solvent, dark brown hair & eyes, fun, SOH, affectionate caring, likes wining & dining, travel, keeping fit. Seeks attractive, shapely, honest lady, well balanced personality, early 30's to early 40's for mutual happiness & more. Adjacent E Berks. Single mums no problem. Photo appr Box 3075

SURREY Graduate, 48 N/S, solvent, successful interests include travel, sport cinema, theatre Seeks NS fit woman 30-45 to share good times & romance Reply to Box No 3262

TALL, dark, slim, good looking, mid 30's London based Solicitor seeks Christian woman who's warm gentle attractive and loves animals Letter and photo guarantees confidential reply Box No 3189

TALL, slim, handsome divorced Newcastle Upon Tyne based professional male early 40's seeks special elusive lady Please Reply to Box No 2984

VERY handsome successful witty intelligent fit slim and athletic I'm 34 and London based WLTM beautiful bright caring lady with GSOH Box No 3244

GAY caring youthful, ret'd schoolmaster, London seeks man, 16-32 affectionate commitment Photo pl No 2986

GOOD-LOOKING, intelligent Man, 32 I'm tall, dark & handsome with a lovely cottage in the Cotswolds complete with log fire. Seeking an intelligent, honest, attractive & slim lady (20's) to share an otherwise perfect life Photo Box No 2923

GOOD LOOKING, successful & intelligent guy, GSOH thirties, seeks soulmate for friendship & romance Reply for full details W Mids/S West. Box No 2736

HANDSOME stylish, sensual professional early 40's slim, affluent, athletic, N/S GSOH, sincere, honest disposition, enjoys life in the fast lane, quiet evenings, country pursuits, travel, real sports cars, the finer things in life. N West based will travel. WLTM sensuous, classy female late 20's/Late 30's with GSOH to share fun, passion, romance & mutual respect. Photo plse Box 3016

HANDSOME very successful professional businessman, age 32, slim, fit. Very genuine loyal personality, South Yorkshire based. Seeks attractive, intelligent successful lady with charisma and humour Photo essential Reply to Box No 2998

IMAGINATIVE artist sensible and sincere 40's seeks outdoorsy fit woman, 30's who'd like to join him in creating a warm relationship and raising some children of our own together London based happy to travel Box No 2988

INTENSELY Individual introductions in London with Close Encounters call Sue today 0171 289 3777

INTUITIVE thoughtful man not short of brain 37 6 ft WLTM similarly successful prof woman possibly to start a family (with a live in nanny!) Kent or city countryside friends culture, travel radio 4 and private eyes Sean Hugh type not S Manchester preferred London etc Box No 2926

I WANT to fall in love again. The rushing of spring and hurley burley of summer bring over the autumn beckons invitingly. Having suffered the early [illegible] & more a lady similarly placed is my desire Box 2956

KINDLY prosperous humorous Oxon leisured gentleman seeks charming equally leisured S/W motorized lady for theatres, restaurants, visiting and, particularly narrowboating Photo appreciated Box No 2899

LOADS of fun guy. Devon, young 42 6'8" good looking co director, great life style fabulous house nr beach into all the good things in life WLTM slim, amusing, fun quality lady, must be good looking, 30-40 for whatever comes naturally Write with photo to receive mine Box No 2960

LONDON based 56 year old, slim fit 5'6" n/s who enjoys wining dining theatre, music, cinema, current events cruise holidays with VGSH & some sporting interests WLTM lady similar & other interests to share these in comfort & delights of a warm relationship Photo appreciated Box 2593

MY marvellous Godfather, lovely village near London, young wife sadly died, highly eligible young 55+, deserves the best PLL n/s girl probably 30s Write direct Box No 3021

NORTHWEST Solicitor 35 single, tall, R C with Irish roots, seeks tall slim lady who can laugh at herself to share holidays, walking, arts, sport and quality life style with view to settling down to traditional family life Reply to Box No 2739

NO EMOTIONAL Baggage Tall handsome professional man Young looking 40 seeks similar lady Like me you probably have your own career but know to make time for others. You are ready for a long term relationship with marriage & possibly family, the objective SW London/Surrey area Photo appreciated Box No 2931

ONE of the Last of the Romantics I seek a sensitive lady around 40 with an inspirational quality who will illuminate my mature years with her youth and beauty. I offer her my professional success, a stylish Cornish home, a halcyon background of classical music, fine wines, elegant cuisine, winter sunshine and dedicated appreciation of her qualities Please Reply to Box No 2896

ORIENTAL girlfriend romantic loving sought by London English professional 41, 6 ft, slim, N/S for long lasting relationship Reply to Box No 2712

OXBRIDGE man, 50's retired, sense of humour, artistic interests, seeks passionate, worshipping friendship with suitable goddess any age Kent/Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 2908

ONE woman man with old fashioned values enjoying life to the full WLTM a slim lady 30-46 who still believes in love & marriage. I am a slim 5' 11" gentleman who enjoys theatre, music, walking talking films, TV, dinners in, dinners out, cruises etc. Connected to the medical profession and have lots of patient TLC but only for life, not a short time Would like to hear from anyone in London, Torquay or Midlands. Please reply with Photo to Box No 2900

PROFESSIONAL businessman NE based widower slim presentable, manly, caring, considerate, good sense of humour many interests including golf WLTM lady 50-60 to complete the round with. No 2855

ROMEO seeks his Juliet (or for modernists Curley seeks his Raquel). Romeo fair 29, South Coast own business, hard working, occasional hedonistic streak, free church background (but no extremes). Enjoys eating out/weekends away/nights in/cinema/ theatre/arts/current affairs/ countryside/etc. Offers loyalty, integrity, intelligence and sense of humour. Juliet mid twenties to mid thirties, intelligent but not necessarily academic, confident and outward going but not brash, a serious approach to life but a sense of humour too. Any denomination/genuine agnostic. Romeo believes (of course) in true romance and seeks an equal partner for mutual support/stimulation and to bring out the best in each other Please Reply to Box No 2662

SELF-MADE failure, no car, no house, no wife wishes to meet the lady with everything except perhaps a handsome partner, 50 6'2" Christian n/s with a career, many interests, no ties and a legendary sense of humour London Surrey Hants Photo please Please Reply to Box No 2945

TALL, slim handsome divorced Newcastle Upon Tyne based professional male early 40's seeks special elusive lady Please Reply to Box No 2984

THE GIRL of my dreams is hiding from me. I'm 35, fit, good looking & intelligent. Enjoy people, fun & laughter. If you're attractive & uncomplicated please send your photo to Box No 2642 Surrey

TIRED of being alone? Kind handsome, successful business man seeks beautiful woman, 26-32 yrs, to enjoy life together. Recent photo ensures reply London area Please Reply to Box No 2917

UNQUENCHABLE enthusiasm for life. Male 38 very fit, slim attractive, sports fun to be with. Are you a slim, N/S warm & affectionate lady Curious? Write to me & find out more. Berkshire Box No 2528

CHESHIRE Male, 52 starting a new life alone seeks a female companion. My interests include walking, countryside, reading history, current affairs Interested? Box No 2950

CITY lawyer, 43 Jewish witty, musical seeks attractive educated lady, preferably 30s, GSOH, must be non smoker Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 2952

CLASSICAL composer/pianist fit solvent, WLTM n.s partner musicienne to retire to France Please Reply to Box No 2941

DOCTOR, 30, cultured educated, smutty SOH, seeks attractive vivacious career girl for New Year London. Photo & phone. Box No 2967

FIRST time advertised Stunningly attractive, tall, slim 30-35 yr old, intelligent, well spoken, sports female sought by similar (except the stunningly attractive bit) male with lifestyle guarantee Photo with reply please to Box No 3019

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NORTH OF THE THAMES

CHESTERTONS

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FULHAM RIVER GARDENS. Delightful apartment with direct view of River Thames 2 bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, kitchen, patio. All amenities. Porter, gardens, swimming pool, sauna. In superb condition. No agencies. *Tel 0171 385 1319* (eves & w/ends) *0171 439 7786* (during working hours) Asking price £167,500

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NW8, 4 beds, 2 bath (ensuite) terraced house with garden. Ideal location for transport and facilities, bright and recently renovated. 97 year lease. £369,000.

Tel: 0171 7221067.

FULHAM

Superb double fronted 5 bedroom family home overlooking Eel Brook Common.

Drawing room, dining room, kitchen/family room, 2 bathrooms, utility, cloak, cellar, south-west facing garden.

£475,000.

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Unique bright top floor flat, south facing 24' x 13' roof terrace off large double aspect reception room, 2 double bedrooms, freshly decorated throughout, superb location. Private sale - no agents please.

£220,000

Tel: 0171 727 9888

BAYSWATER Newly mod 2 bed 2nd flr conv. with comm gdns. Gge avail. £110,000 l/h Westbourne Est 0171 727 8612

BAYSWATER W2 Spacious 2 bed flat in lux p/b blk £159,950 Granvilles 0171 221 4936

BELSIZE PARK NW3 Beautiful 2 bed mais priv terr £175,000 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

HOLLAND PARK Lux 2 bed apt Beautiful views, excellent cond £175,000 Tel. 0191 870 8027

LITTLE VENICE/Maida Vale The specialist local agents Vickers & Co 0171 289 1692

PROBATE SALE St Johns Wd 2 bed in prime blk £154,500 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

REGENTS PARK NW1/W1 established Residential Agents Sandfords 0171 723 9988

W1 2 bed in prime portered mans blk with balcony £165,000 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

W14 Close to Brook Green 2nd floor 2 bed. Superb decor inc new kitchen (st. steel oven & hob) W/drs er. GCH. Share F/H £94,500 Sarah 0171 495 3695 (Day) 0171 603 3470 (Eves)

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

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CITY EC2 Live/work (S.T.P.) Freehold Houses. Courtyard Setting, from £89,000 Tarn & Tarn 0171 283 2911

COVENT GARDEN, WC2. 3 bed flat. Mod block. 23' rec terrace £206,000 Barnard Marcus 0171 636 2736

HEART OF LONDON EC1 Studio flat. 20 x 11. long lease Further details 01926 661406

JUDD STREET, WC1. Small refurbished 1 bed flat, porter. Mansion block £74,000 Barnard Marcus 0171 636 2736

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WC1. 2 bed, lux port blk new kit/bath 4th flr. lift, ent phone Banbury & Ball 0171 833 3466

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Offers £245,000

Gill - 0171 930 3377 W
Martin - 0171 244 7618 H

KENS SW5 Refurb studio & 1 bed New Kits & baths Good invest ret £74,000 & £112,500 s/c resp Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911 T 0171 244 9838 F

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PHILBEACH GDNS Lux g/floor gdn flat. 2 beds, nr tube. Must sell £142,000 0171 3705192

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OXFORDSHIRE Substantial country house in 1 acre. 5 beds, 2 baths, shwr, 3 receptions inc 25' x 18' beamed dwg room, 18' x 15' kit/b'fst room £445,000. colour brochure. Also 18th C cott. ideal weekend retreat access to Thames plus rail 2 beds, 2 recs, en shwr priv gdns £156,000 Also large Victorian house in village close to Thames & rail. 4-6 beds, 3 recs, potn'l private suite, 3 car garaging, river gdns £370,000 Davis Tate 01491 873456 E Mail davis tate @ dial.pipex.com

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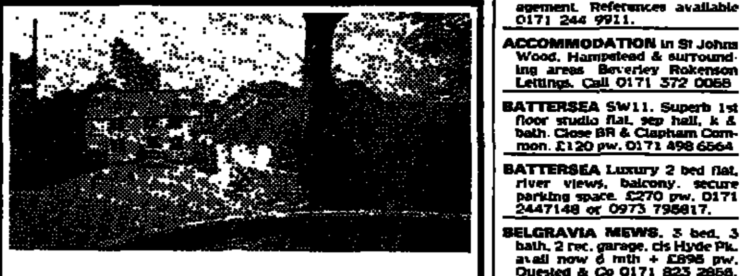
WALES



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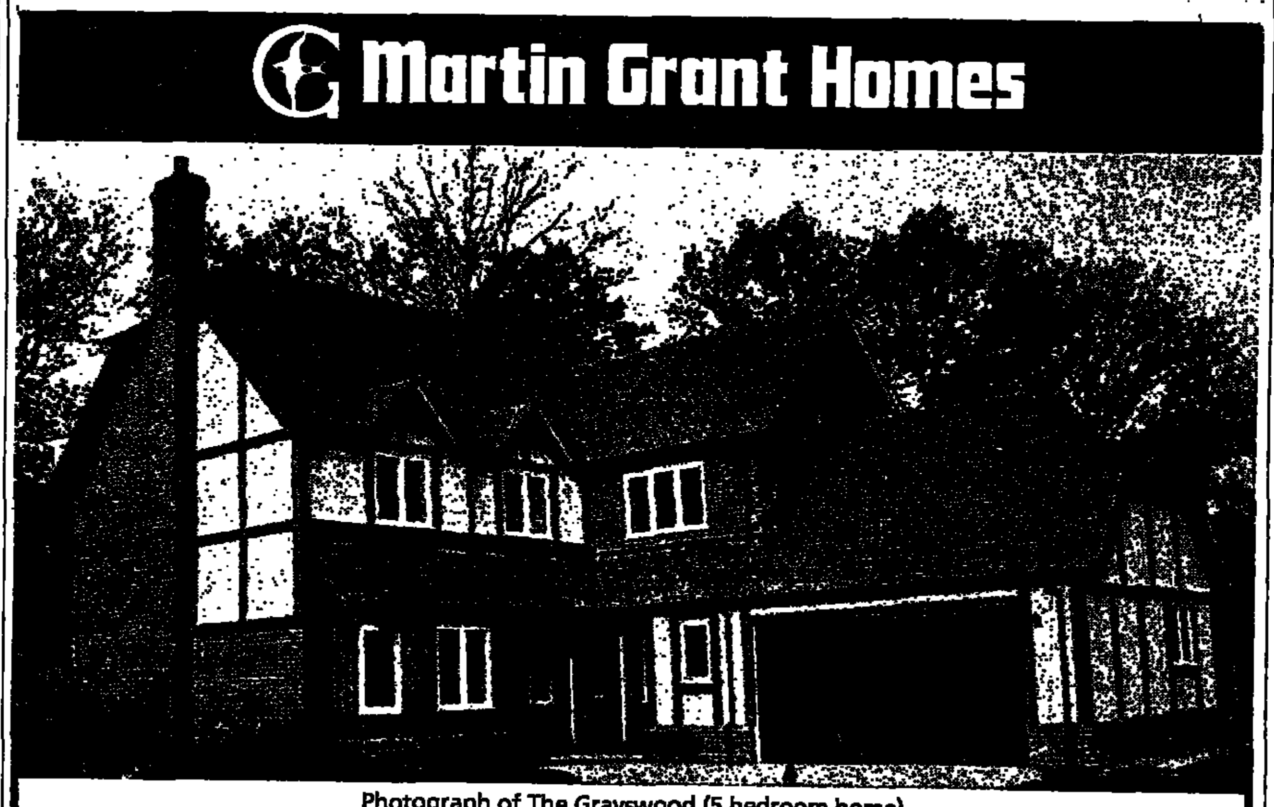

Photograph of The Grayswood (5 bedroom home)

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BELGRAVIA MEWS. 3 bed, 3 bath, 2 rec, garage, cls Hyde Pk. avail now 6 mth + £895 pw. Quested & Co 0171 823 2856.

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CAMDEN TOWN architect quiet sunny SC f/f Studio flat for 1 £120 pw inc 0171 4859679

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CHILDS PLACE SW5 3 bed 2 bth Vict house Rec with pine floor Patio. Pt furn. Must let £495pw TLC 0171 373 0373

DOVE MEWS SW5 Charming 2/3 bed mews house & garage for lets up to 3 months. Available immed. £600 pw 0171 244 9911 t. 0171 244 9838 f.

ESSEX Colchester. Prestigious 1 bed bungalow, built in grounds of isolated farmhse. Lge lounge, en suite, sauna, excellent views, adj indoor swimming pool. 60 mins Liverpool Street. £600 pm. 01206 251929

FULHAM RD, SW10. Selec 1 & 2 bed good size refurb furn flats. p.o.a. 0171 823 6923

HIGHGATE Village. Charming spatious 2 bedroom flat £260 pw Tel: 0181 346 0624.

HOLLAND PARK W11. Superb. spac 3 dble bed Victorian house. £550pw. AHP 0181 741 2224

KENS W8 Superb pos. sunny 2 bed flat, terr, extra WC. No agents £310 pw 0181 549 0349

KENT - nr Ashford. Secluded 4 bed f/house in 1½ acres. 1 year s/h. £780pcm 0123 372 1215.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE CT, SW3 Newly refurbished flat. 3 beds (D) 2 bath/sh. Dble Rec Study/bed 4. Lge fitted Kit/Diner. Porter. Furn/unfurn £750 pw. TLC 0171 373 0373

MAYFAIR Luxury refurb grd/lwr grd mais 2 receps, kit/bkfst. 3 dbl beds. 3 baths. clkrm. patio gdn £1100pw 0171 499 7473

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REDCLIFFE GDNS SW10 3 bed 3 bath 1st flr flat. Furn/Unfurn £345pw TLC 0171 373 0373

REGENT PK. Very quiet residential 2 bed P/B flat spac lounge, fit kit bath. gge gch porter new decor £280pw 0181 953 8911t

S.KEN. SW7. 4 bed, 2 bath hse with gdn. Avail 19 Jan. Unfurn £650pw HH. 0171 4980010

ST JOHN'S WOOD 2 x luxury refurb 1 bed flats close tube £250/wk. 0171 499 7473.

SWISS COTTAGE 2 bght dbl bd flt. spac rec new dec kit w/m/d gge elegant furn £310pw inc heat 0181 953 8911t.

TOWER BRIDGE Selection of luxury apts within walking distance of city & local amenities £190-£475pw 0171 403 3030

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WALHAM GROVE. SW6. Fabulous 3 bed Victorian Villa Dble Rec Fully fit Kit. Storage Gdn £675pw TLC 0171 373 0373

WILTON CRES. Knightsbridge 4 beds. 2 baths duplex apart. fully furn. £750pw Charles Hilton Estates 0181 863 0606

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W2 New 3 bed 2 bath Mews house with garage £400 pw. Exec Homes 0171 724 9919

W1 PARK LANE. Prestige Block. mod lux 2 bed. 2 bath apt. f.kit. w/dr. d/w. gas c/h. lift. ent phone. £350pw 0181 203 7691

W1 PARK LANE. Mod 1 bed flat. gas c.h.. f.kit. f.furn. lift, ent phone £240pw 0181 203 7691

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PROVENCE. 3 bed apt in château priv gdn Pool Ten £59,900 furn Domus Abroad 0171 431 4692.

ITALY

TUSCANY

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Club Ria	Malta	Oct	1	Mid	4	995
Jardines Del Puerto	Costa Del Sol	Oct	1	High	4	1295
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With two of Britain's great landmarks for sale, **Cheryl Taylor** finds other beauty spots to buy

Waterfalls, caverns and coves

You may be surprised to learn that many of Britain's landmarks and beauty spots are privately owned. The two best known, Land's End and John o' Groat's, went on sale jointly this month for £5.5 million.

Land's End attracts about 500,000 visitors a year, John o' Groat's 250,000. Both have established tourist and leisure businesses, employing a total of 200 people, with a joint turnover of about £3.5 millon.

Land's End, comprising 100 acres of pastureland and cliffs, visitors' centre, car parks, hotel complex and holiday cottages, has changed hands three times in 15 years. David Golstone, a property developer, bought it from the Neave-Hill family in 1981, selling it five years later to the property tycoon Peter de Savary, who pumped in another £5 million. A New Zealand company, Gulf Resources Pacific, which also acquired John o' Groat's, bought Land's End in 1992 and has since spent £1 million upgrading facilities.

The 20-acre John o' Groat's site, with its 15-bed hotel, bar and shop, has planning permission to expand the hotel and develop visitor attractions, for which a grant may be available from the Highlands and Islands Enterprise Company.

Estate agent Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby, of Humberts Leisure, reports worldwide interest for the two landmarks. The National Trust, however, is not in the market, despite its attempt to buy Land's End in 1981, when it was outbid. The two properties are not considered by the trust to be under threat or in urgent need of care and attention and, therefore, do not warrant trust funds.

If you fancy owning a landmark, there are smaller, and cheaper, pieces of Britain on the market. British Coal is selling part of Offa's Dyke in the disposal of more than 1,000 acres of agricultural land and property in northeast Wales. The 120-metre section of the historic earthworks at Rhostyllen, near Wrexham, part of 80 surviving miles of ditch and embankment, was built by the King of Mercia 1,200 years ago to mark his frontier. The agents, Carter Jonas, expect this Ancient Monument, with 96 acres of arable land let on five farm business tenancies, to fetch about £150,000.

In Devon, there are two beauty spots for sale within the Dartmoor National Park, which attracts about 10 million visitors a year to its 368 square miles of moor and grassland.

Becky Falls, at Manaton near Bovey Tracey, with waterfall, bridges and woodland paths in 45 acres, is for sale at £1.4m through Jackson-Stops & Staff. The estate, which includes a restaurant, ice-cream parlour, tea garden, gift shop, car park, owner's house and outbuildings, attracts 200,000 visitors a year and has planning consent for a Study and Interpretation Centre.

Or, you could buy Badger's Holt, an 11th-century former fishing lodge to the Manor of Spitchwick, in 5.5 acres of woodland gardens, on the banks of the East Dart river at Dartmeet, which attracts around 250,000 visitors a year.

The property includes a licensed restaurant and bar, gift shop, ice-cream kiosk, parking for 200 cars, four-bedroom owner's accommodation, gardens with aviary, stable block and fishing rights.

Within the National Park, Badger's Holt has commoners' grazing rights for two mares and their foals. The agent Knight Frank is looking for offers of about £750,000.

There is no management agreement with the Dartmoor National Parks authority at Becky Falls or Badger's Halt, which means public access to the properties is at the owner's discretion. Similarly, visitors to Land's End pay up to £5 a head in high season.

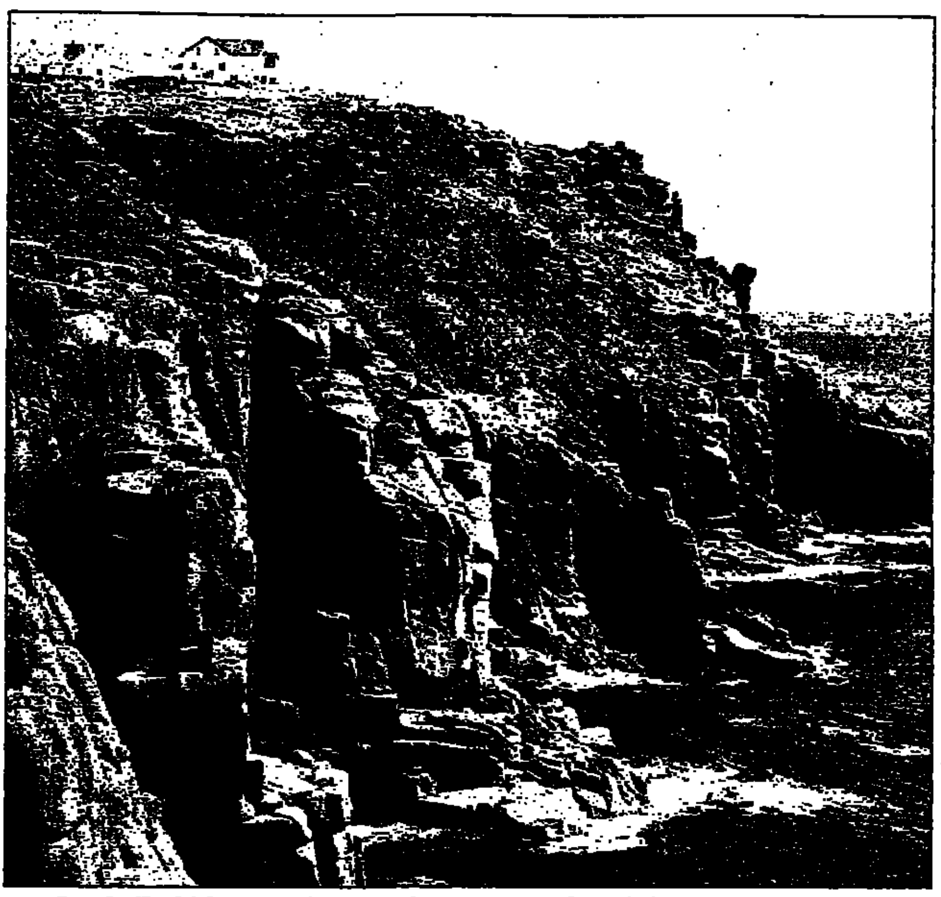
Also in Devon, Knight Frank is asking £1.5 million for The Fisherman's Cot, a 23-bedroom hotel, restaurant and bar on the banks of the River Exe, next to the 14th-century Bickleigh Bridge, four miles from Tiverton. It gets about 51,000 visitors a year and has been a favourite haunt of authors and songwriters over the years — it is said that Paul Simon wrote *Bridge Over Troubled Water* there. The property comes with parking for 90 cars, 2.7 acres of landscaped gardens, a licensed riverside terrace, stable block and a quarter of a mile of double-bank salmon and sea trout fishing rights.

Alternatively, Carnglaze Caverns, at St Neot, near Liskeard, part of Cornwall's tin mining heritage in a secluded valley bordering the River Laveny, can be yours for £350,000 through Knight Frank. Quarrying ceased about 1903, but the public were not admitted until 1973 to view the magnificent caverns, which now attract 7,000 visitors a year.

The price includes a two-bedroom cottage, shop, car parking, 6.5 acres of sloping woodland gardens and extensive underground caverns, with former quarry workings, featuring a subterranean pool.

Also in Cornwall, the agents Miller & Sons is looking for offers of about £50,000 for the Iron Age Trehyllys courtyard village in 3.5 acres adjoining Chun Castle and surrounded by National Trust land near Newbridge. A scheduled Ancient Monument, it comprises the remains of five courtyard houses, a number of round houses and a 2,000-year-old burial chamber. As yet, the site is not on the tourist track.

● *Humberts Leisure, 0171-629 6700. Jackson, Stops & Staff, 01392 214222. Knight Frank, 01392 423111. Carter Jonas, 0171-629 7154. Miller & Sons, 01566 776055.*



Land's End (above) and John o' Groat's are up for sale jointly at £5.5 million

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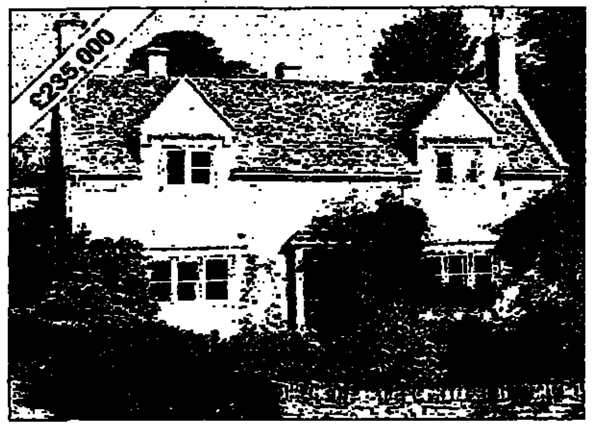
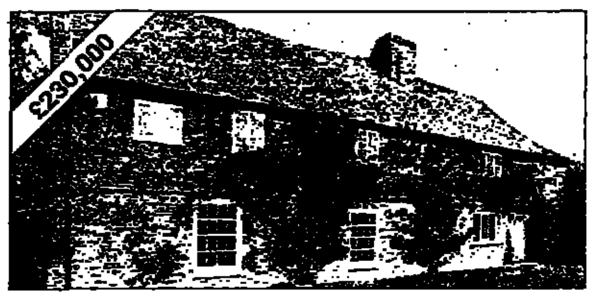
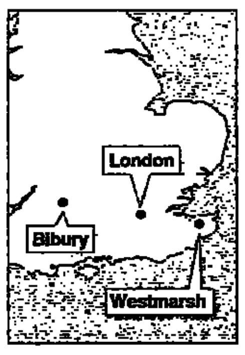


GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Garden Cottage, Bibury. Grade II listed house, with garden, in a conservation area of the Cotswolds. Three bedrooms, bathroom, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, store room, shower room. Garage. About £235,000 (Knight Frank, 01285 659771).

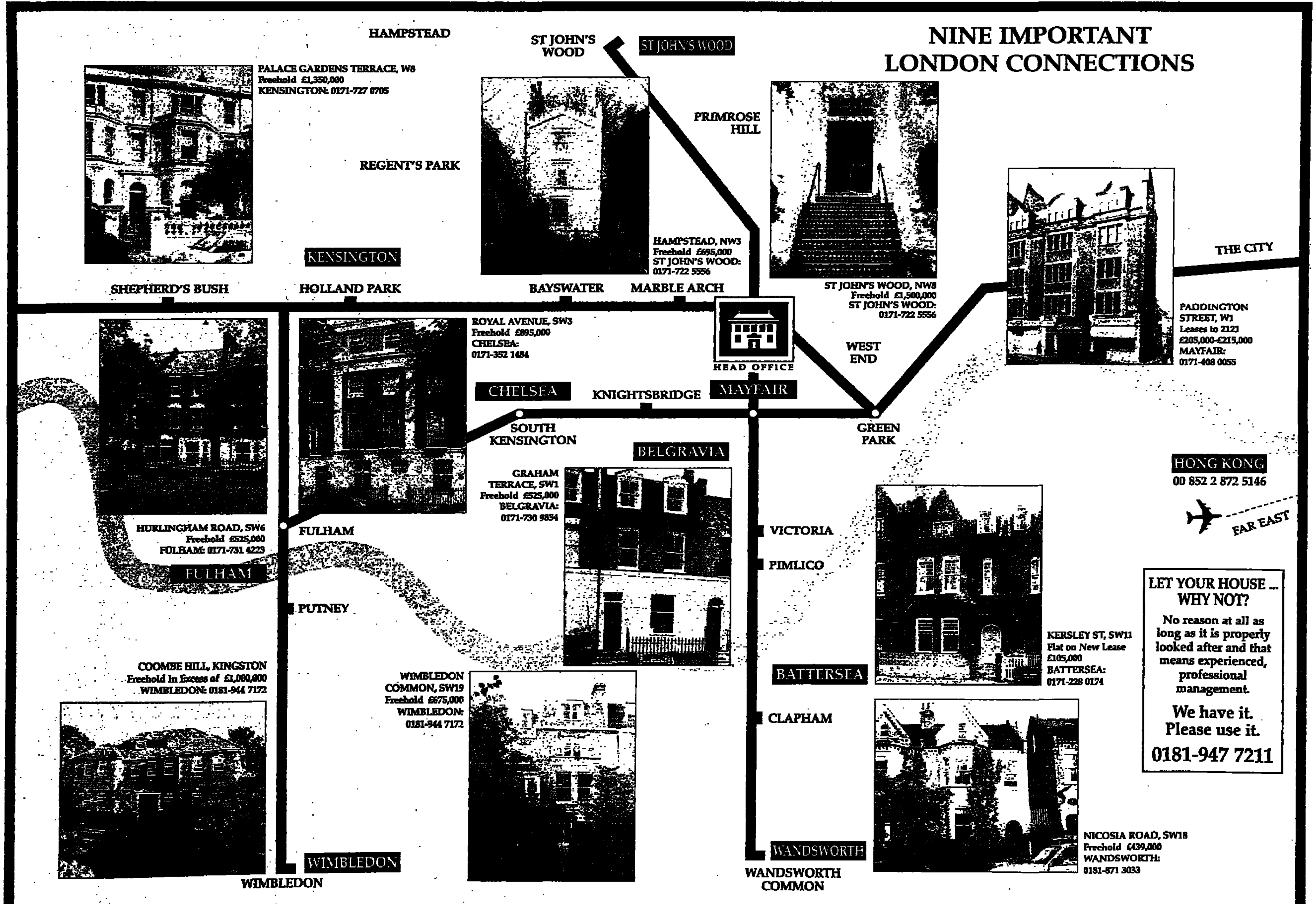


KENT
Uphousden, Westmarsh, near Canterbury. Grade II listed medieval hall house in an acre of gardens. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), drawing room, dining room, study, kitchen, utility and cellar. Cottage for refurbishment and garage. About £230,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01227 451123).



LONDON
4, Burnaby Street, Chelsea, SW10. Period terraced house with garden. Four bedrooms, bathroom, cloakroom, drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room and utility room. About £269,000 (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484).

CHERYL TAYLOR



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Scotland's company of wolves

Wild animals including lynx and beaver may be reintroduced to the Highlands

STILL PICTURES

The wolf was extinct in Scotland by the middle of the 18th century. Whether they can be reintroduced will depend on the extent to which the great, ancient forests can be recreated

In the depths of what remains of the Caledonian pine forest it is not hard to conjure up might-have-beens and once-upon-a-times. If it is wilderness you crave, the sense of it is there at least.

If you yearn for the cry of the wolf on the wind, or the slap of a beaver tail on the still surface of a hidden lochan, there are trees there that know what you are talking about. They are mighty survivors. The spread of your arms won't go halfway round their girth, and they can reach back to the Ice Age in 30 generations. They are nature's historic monuments.

One such tree is screened by a small stockade of birches, junipers and lesser pines, which conspire to shield its immensity. But step into the arena that the tree has cleared for itself within the stockade and marvel at its showpiece qualities: the classical flat-crowned Scots pine, the Goliath spread of limbs.

It is, perhaps, 70ft high, 20ft round the base. One root is 2ft thick, its bark is 4in deep in places. If the golden eagle is the king of birds, here is a golden eagle among pines. Such a tree remembers the pad of wolves.

Sadly there are few such trees, but there are no wolves at all. The great forests, the wolf's domain, were felled. For centuries, for as long as man had ceased to be a hunter-gatherer and settled for the life of herdsman, he first feared, then became obsessed by the wolf. Not only did he account for its extinction in the mid-18th century, he obliterated many other species and countless square miles of pristine forest.

The pine forest remnants we know are empty places and amount to 1 per cent of the forest that was. But the tide is turning. Conservation has begun to think big, to contemplate restoration on a scale which almost matches people's old capacity for destruction.

The case for restoring and recreating big forests of native trees has moved from the fringes of the conservation movement to the centre. The old order of deer forest and sheep farm are being questioned, and, emboldened by the reintroduction of sea eagle, goshawk and red kite, a new *cri de coeur* is on conservationists' lips: "Bring back the big mammals." The campaign has been assisted greatly by the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), which has responded to a European Union directive on species reintroduction by announcing that we could have beavers back in two years. If this comes off, it will establish a formidable precedent, because in the Highlands beaver has been extinct for 400 years.

Nobody denies that as mammal reintroductions go, beaver is the softest option. It is a harmless rodent with nothing more ominous in its nature than a talent for civil engineering and a predilection for willow bark. But if you scan the roll call of extinct species and contemplate the head of steam building behind mammal reintroductions, the concern in the National Farmers' Union and the Scottish Landowners' Federation is understandable.

Neolithic man killed off the lynx. The brown bear was hunted out by the 10th century, reindeer by the 11th, elk by the 13th. The beaver's fur was the price on its head, and it was extinct by the 16th century. The wild boar was the best contest for the hunter, and by the 17th century there were no survivors. That left only the wolf to worry about, and the centuries-long campaign of vilification and lies could only ever have one consequence.

Lynx and wild boar still prowl the European mainland, and are the more likely species to be reintroduced to Britain

There is no reliable evidence of a healthy wolf having killed a human being, let alone swallowing grandmothers whole. When wolves have killed, they are known to have been rabid or under extreme provocation, such as their cubs being threatened.

In fact, the earliest peoples of these Caledonian pine forests, especially the Picts, revered the wolf as the supreme hunter, and carved it as a sacred symbol on their stones.

But the reintroduction of the wolf is probably some way off yet. All the lost species have their champions, and the wolf is the apotheosis on everyone's list, but common to most of them are the more achievable targets of beaver, lynx and wild boar, and all four still prowl the European mainland.

How many species we manage to reintroduce and how soon we might achieve this depends on the scale of forest we recreate or, as Ron Greer, director of Environment Resources Scotland, puts it: "Not before we have the physical and psychological environment sorted out.".

Mr Greer, one of the most persuasive voices at the cutting edge of Scottish conservation, says: "We have to build the whole biological basis for the animals to live in, and, more importantly, work out how the animals and people are going to live together." He argues that we must learn again what we have forgotten, the skills of co-existence, and cites North America and Norway as examples.

There the attitude is different, Mr Greer says.

"People accept big, dramatic animals, such as moose, elk, bears and wolves. In a place such as Maine, which is the size of Scotland, people are quite happy to have thirty or forty thousand moose walking about, and 20,000 black bears."

So the first step is what?

"Changing the land use so that we get the primary forest back," Mr Greer says.

What sort of area of primary forest? "Even if we had between a third and a half of Scotland covered, that would probably be enough."

Will it happen?

"I'm optimistic because we've run out of alternatives. It's only a matter of time before the sheep subsidy system goes down the tubes and then we'll be faced with major social breakdown. It has to happen, so it will."

So how long?

"Fifty years, maybe more. Once we have the environment changed and people's minds up to speed, they might accept wolves. They're not as dangerous as . . . oh, a high-cholesterol breakfast is more dangerous than the wolf."

You can see captive wolves, lynx and wild boar in Scotland, and in the course of making two radio programmes recently, I eyeballed them all; I saw a lynx (a cat big enough to fell a roe deer) leap 8ft to take a swipe at a passing magpie; I saw a 400lb waist-high boar devour a newly killed pigeon whole; and I looked longingly into the yellow eyes of a dominant old alpha male wolf patrolling a plantation of Scots pines. In my mind as I looked at him was the account by an American writer, Barry Lopez, of an incident in wolf education at a US school.

"That day the children were very excited. A wolf was coming to visit the school. Before it arrived, their teacher asked them to paint a picture of a wolf. They all drew fierce animals with very big fangs. Later the wolf came. Afterwards their teacher asked them to draw another picture. This time there were no fangs. All the pictures showed wolves with very big feet."

JIM CRUMLEY

● *The writer is the author of 12 books on Scottish landscape and wildlife, including* Badgers on the Highland Edge *(Cape, £14.99),* Among Mountains *and* Among Islands *(Mainstream, £14.99) and* The Heart of Skye *(Colin Baxter, £8.95).*

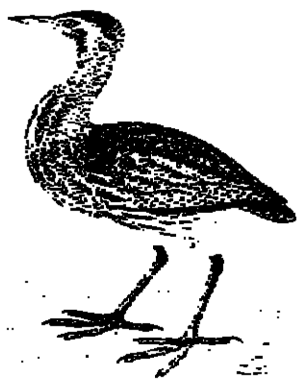
Feather Report

Playing hide and seek

THE LEA VALLEY bitterns are back. Near Cheshunt, 14 miles north of London, there is a reed-bed where they are now regular winter visitors — four of them, this year. And these are bitterns that come with all mod cons — for the birdwatcher, that is, because the reed-bed is in front of a large, wooden hide with seats and viewing slots.

I went for my annual view last week. I don't really like hides, but this is too good a chance to miss — and I was lucky. I had not been in the hide two minutes before a wave of excitement and whisperings of "Where? where?" ran through the watchers. In the reeds it was just possible to make out the shape of a bittern, crouching with its beak pointing at a 60-degree angle to the sky. Most of its plumage blended so perfectly with the reeds that if you took your eyes off it you could lose it. Some people couldn't see it at all.

Then it moved, stepping slowly forward into a narrow, open channel between the reeds, and everybody had a wonderful view. You could see the long yellow streaks with jagged edges on its body, and the dark blue crown. It stalked a few yards through the water, turned back into the reeds and vanished.


Regular visits: the bittern

Meanwhile, a kingfisher flashed by, hovered, and settled on a pole, its topknot ruffled, its blue back shining. Like the rainbow and the cuckoo's song in W. H. Davies's poem, we had two amazing fisher birds presented to our senses in one rare moment.

The hide is currently open every day. For details phone 01992 713838.

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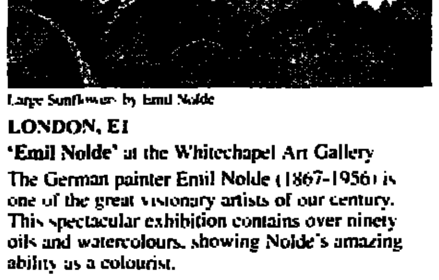

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THE TIMES

SAILING: **Edward Gorman** on the trials and triumphs of a DIY refit

Nothing is ever plain sailing

Refitting or overhauling an old cruising boat can be a nightmare. Anyone who has ever tried it is adamant they will never do it again. Some people start and never finish. Others start, but go broke before they finish. Yet more finish but are so traumatised by the experience, they sell their once beloved boat as soon as they can.

Boats being worked on are horrible to be around. Cramped at the best of times, they become chaotic once you start to dismantle and renovate them. The space you are trying to improve is at the top of an eight-foot ladder and quickly becomes your workshop. Tools, bits of wood, dust, shavings, glue, interior and exterior fittings pile up, making even the simplest job a huge challenge.

There is also the annoyingly expensive knock-on effect of moving any fitting to a new location in a yacht. During the year-long refit of my own boat *Nutcracker* I used to compare it to those puzzles where moving one square involves moving all the others. You get the one you want in the right place — say the bilge pump — but all the others, the batteries, cooker, fuel tank and cabin heater, are now displaced and have to be relocated.

Despite all this, and the enormous cost in both money and time involved in a comprehensive refit, more and more people do have a go at it, enticed by the very reasonable second-hand prices available for late 1960s and early 1970s cruising yachts, many of which are far more elegant and sea-kindly than their modern counterparts.

So long as the surveyor is convinced the basics are sound — hull, deck and rig — it makes sense to buy relatively cheaply and then spend perhaps the same again bringing the boat up to scratch. If you are handy at woodwork, wiring and mechanics, and have confidence in your skills, you can keep costs down by doing a lot of the work yourself.

Neil and Fiona Tiplady from Redhill in Surrey embarked on exactly that strategy just over a year ago when, after six months of hunting, they bought *Keeshond*, a Holman & Pye Super Sovereign 35 foot ketch, built in 1973. They had been looking for a sturdy and reliable cruising home on which to extend their sailing horizons after completing a number of Royal Yachting Association courses, and enjoying charter holidays abroad. Among other designs they looked at were two Rival 34s, a Contessa 35 which they thought too powerful for their requirements, a Nicholson 32, and two Ohlson 38s.

The Tipladys on *Keeshond*

Despite *Keeshond*'s poor cosmetic condition, which they knew would involve them in a lot of work, they decided to buy her because the rig, layout and lines of the boat suited them. They knocked the price down from £28,000 to £22,000 and got to work.

Neil, 31, an electronics engineer, decided they would do most of it themselves. Fiona, 28, a town planner, was ready to graft alongside him. Having installed the boat in a shed at the Hayling Island Yacht Company, they began last January, intending to have it all finished for an inaugural sail by August. But with the work still going on this year, they are now aiming at a relaunch this April.

Fiona showed me around the unfinished interior last week. "I knew it would take us a long time to get it cosmetically how we wanted it, but I didn't realise how much work there would be," she said. Neil estimates that they will have spent more than £15,000 by the time they finish, despite doing most of the work themselves. They have also scoured the country for good deals on parts.

The experience of working on *Keeshond* has left Neil with at least three hard and fast rules. The first is that every job takes three times longer than you think it will. The second is that if you think something will fit easily and simply, assume the exact opposite. And the third: don't be surprised if you end up having a blazing row with your partner in the boat shed. It's not you or him or her, it's boats.

The work on *Keeshond* began with six weekends spent dismantling the rig; the deck fittings (which had to be drilled off), the heads, galley and chart table. The engine was removed, as were the old wiring, piping and tanks.

Then Fiona and Neil set about scraping all the old sealer out of the deck seams, before resealing them after replacing many of the screws and dowels. Neil spent at least two weekends overhauling the engine, changing some of the sump gaskets, replacing the alternator and moving the heat exchanger from the front to the side.

Fiona meanwhile set about the marathon task of stripping back all the woodwork on deck and in the cockpit for revarnishing, and resealing the hatch covers and windows, all of which leaked. While this was under way, professionals in the yard renewed the hull's protective coatings, and Neil replaced all the seacocks.

The next phase, which is still under way, is the rebuilding of the galley to include a double sink and microwave; the rebuilding of the chart table; and the redesign of the heads to include a shower. Still to come is new wiring, the re-installation of the 50hp Perkins engine and a new generator, and seven new water and diesel tanks, custom-made to fit the now pristine bilges.

There have been moments when both of them have longed for it all to be over. But they have never lost momentum and know they will be glad of their efforts by this summer. "I'm getting the absolute confidence that I know where everything is and why it is there," said Neil. "We wanted a boat that won't leak, and I wanted the confidence of knowing how everything is attached and knowing it will stay attached.

"The biggest worry is the engine, because it still hasn't been run. The other big worry is us — can we handle her?" He cast a wary eye over a windy Chichester harbour where *Keeshond* will soon make her first voyage as a virtually new boat.

هكذا من الأصل

Buckle up and prepare for a little belt tightening

Animal-print belts and accessories add style to the sleek silhouettes in vogue this season

Skinny "fake snake" and "mock croc" belts are winding their way around the waists of women's fitted jackets and trouser suits, replacing the soft pastel shades of summer with a textured jungle effect. The more exotic belts add bite to last summer's soft Jackie Kennedy-look without taking away its sophistication.

Pale blue and pink patent belts have been replaced with brown and black, which work well with camel, a favourite shade this season.

"Women want to look groomed again," says Carol Richardson, fashion spokeswoman at Marks & Spencer. "It is a very lady-like silhouette this winter, like the Duchess of Windsor or Audrey Hepburn. It is a lot more polished than in the past few years."

The thin, fake snake leather belts at Marks & Spencer have a cream-and-brown print with covered buckles and cost about £8 (sizes 8 to 14). They are among the cheaper belts in high street stores.

Mulberry's belts are made from calf skin, which makes them more expensive at £35-£99. They come in lizard and crocodile print, black or brown, with a textured effect called Nile, Congo or Tangier. Its new funkier ranges, Cleopatra Asp and Luxor Viper, have an "antique" snake-print effect and a high-gloss finish.

Stores such as Loewe, Coach and Hermès, renowned for their leather products, stock belts at the top end of the price range. At Hermès, depending on the type of leather or skin used, belts cost from approximately £200 to £1,000. They can be made to order in exotic skins, such as ostrich and crocodile. The company's range of colours includes bright yellow and green; and some of its belts can be reversed. The buckles are detachable for this purpose. The ethnic influence is strong and some of their silver buckles are based on designs by the Tuareg community of the Sahara.

At the other end of the market are trendy outlets such as Top Shop and Pink Soda. Plastic white-and-grey animal-print belts at Pink Soda cost £7.99. Cheaper belts are ideal to complement this season's look, but they are unlikely to withstand frequent wear.

Good leather can be kept supple by applying nourisher regularly, and by storing belt buckles in a pouch when not in use. But if you want a strong belt that will take you through the winter, think of your purchase as a long-term investment. The better the leather, the longer it will last; cheap belts will eventually crack and the stitching will loosen.

Of course, any belt, whatever its price, is worthless if it does not fit comfortably. A belt that fastens through its middle hole is considered a good fit; it also allows for movement either way.

If you prefer your belts loose or low-slung, the latest range of chain belts by Chanel and Prada can either be worn tight round the waist or slung usually around the hips — but for a price. Alternatively, Otto Glanz's leather belt with a "snaffle" buckle will instantly revive a pair of trousers for a more modest £38.

As part of the "total look" this season, belts come with matching accessories in animal print. A strappy, high-heeled, mock-croc sandal is available at Marks and Spencer. There are also fine leather gloves and animal-print handbags to complete the set. Mulberry has taken the finishing touches a stage further with mini bags, and purses with a 1950s-style wrist strap.

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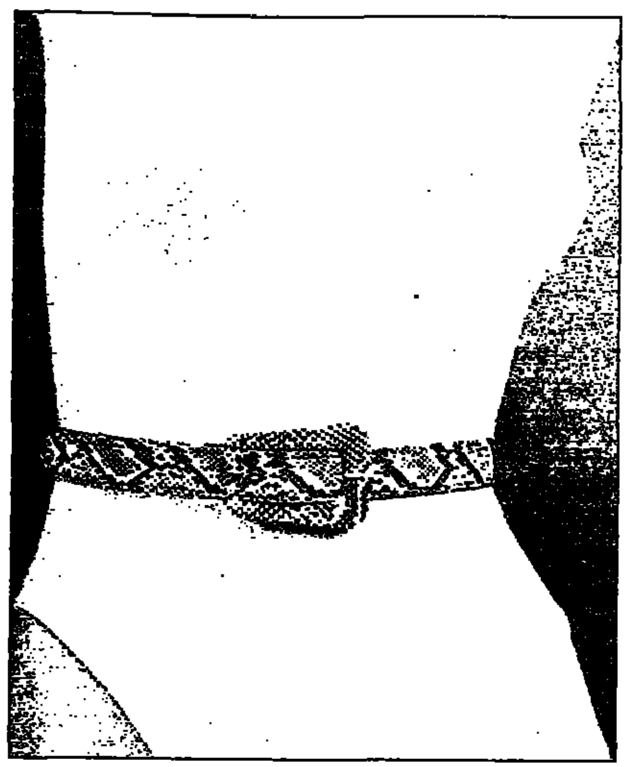
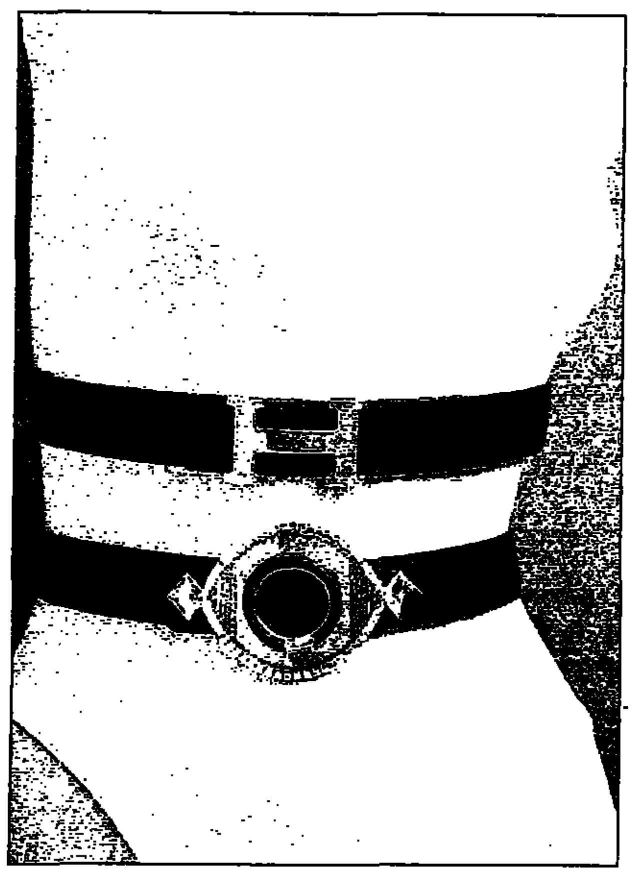
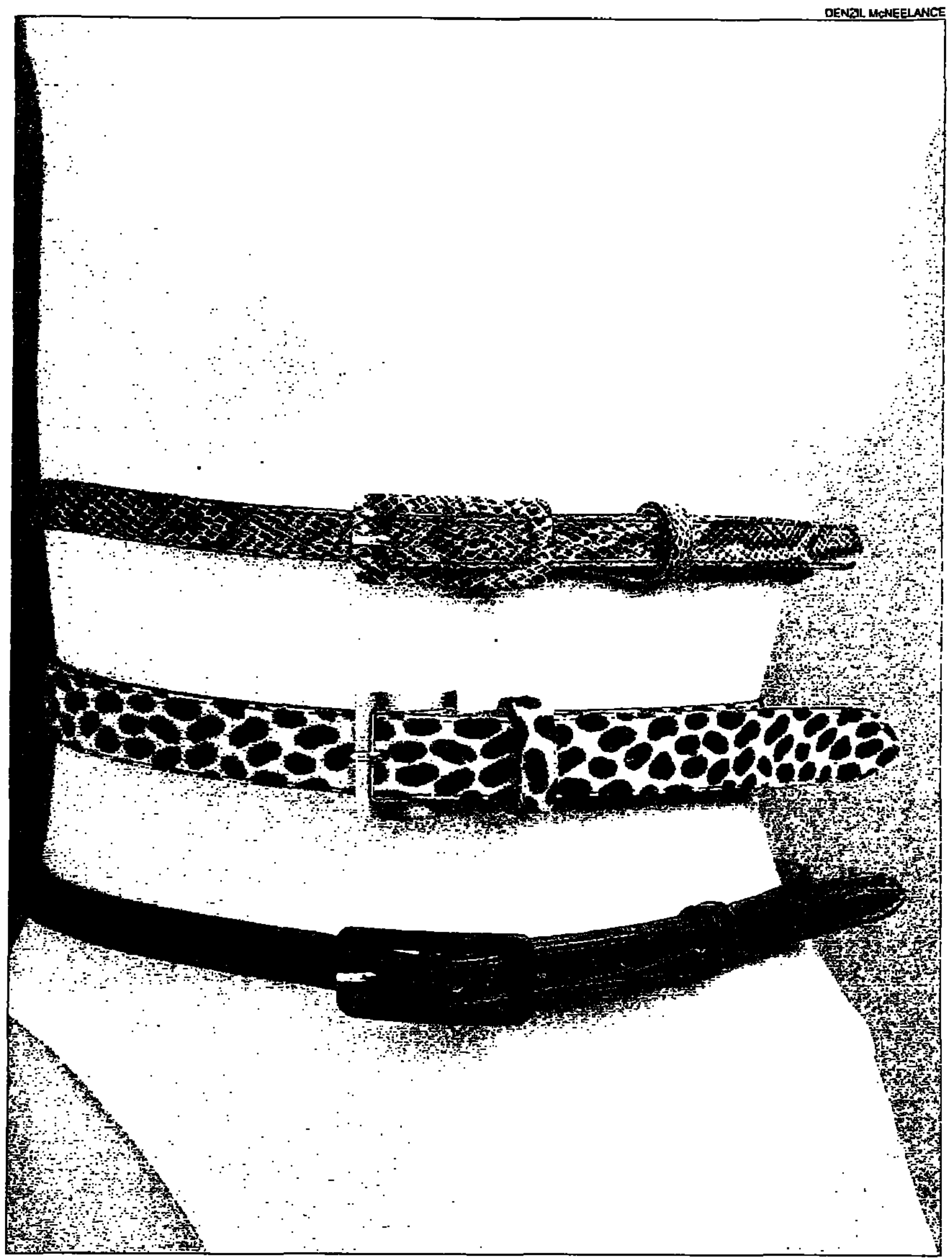


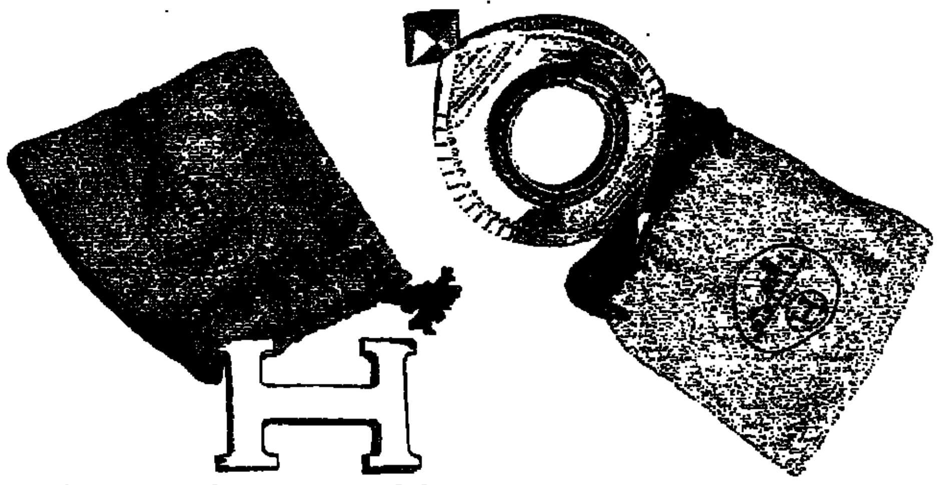
Plastic "fake-snake" belt from Pink Soda, £7.99



Top-of the range belts from Hermès — £195 (top) and £455



These jungle-effect belts from Marks & Spencer cost around £8. They are ideal for sprucing up old suits and jackets



Hermès provides traditional soft drawstring bags to protect its heavy buckles

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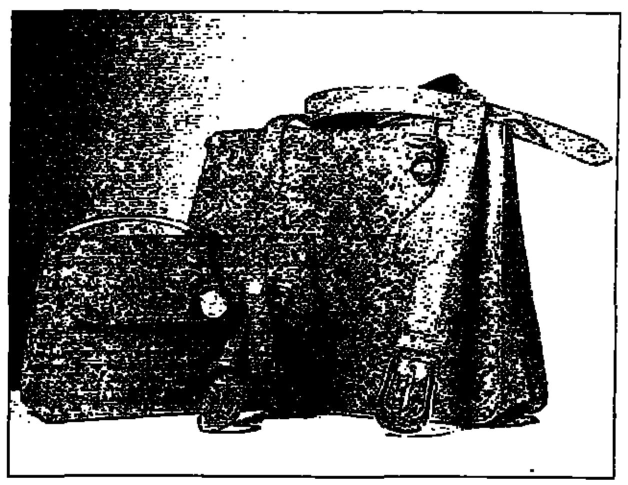


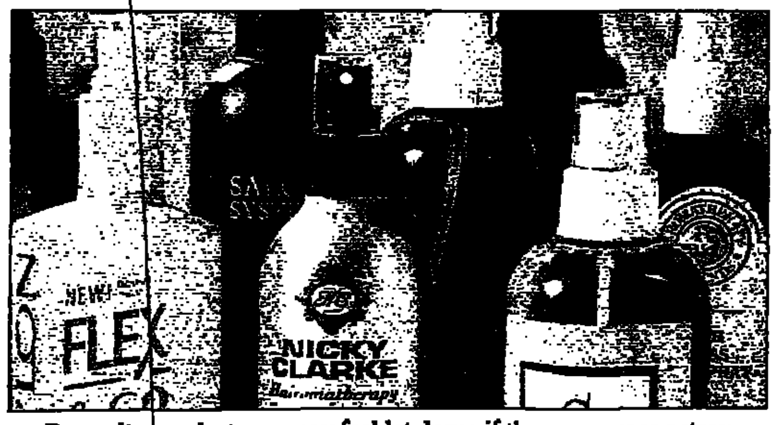
Mulberry belt (left, £30), bag (£130); viper belt (£55), bag (£325)

Finding an efficient, environmentally friendly hairspray isn't easy. We tested a selection

Green dream can come to a sticky end

WE KEEP being told to do our environmental bit by converting from aerosols to ozone-friendly, pump-action containers for products such as hairspray. But is the non-aerosol technology yet up to producing an efficient hairspray?

The frequent complaint with non-aerosol sprays is that the liquid is not dispersed as a fine mist over the hair, but as a sticky mess over the hands. I set out to discover whether any manufacturer had come up with a solution to the problem. I tested several pump-action sprays on my long, fine hair that has a tendency to go limp.



Pump it up . . . but you may feel let down if the spray goes astray

MICHAEL DI CESARE
Super Hold Preserving Spray
250ml: £7.95 (price per 200 ml: £6.36)
An American product, recently launched in England. Available from Selfridges, Oxford Street, London, W1; and Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1. For mail order: Selfridges 0171-629 1234; Harrods 0171-730 1234.
VERDICT: The finest mist I have found on a non-aerosol product. It smelt more like eau de cologne than hairspray. My hair looked natural and stayed in good shape all day. None of the contents escaped from the bottle on to my hands. Impressive performance.
RATING: 9/10

TREVOR SORBIE PROFESSIONAL
Affix Hairspray
200ml: £3.59
Available from Tesco, larger branches of Boots, and from Trevor Sorbie, 10 Russell Street, London WC2B 5HZ. For mail order, or your nearest stockist, ring 0171-497 2025.
VERDICT: Stylish packaging. A very fine mist which dispersed evenly and lightly on my hair and smelt fresh. Contains sunscreen. My hair looked natural and stayed in place all day. None of the contents strayed on to my hands. Impressive performance.
RATING: 9/10

L'OREAL TECNI FIX
Firm Hold Fixing Spray
125ml: £4.05 (price per 200ml £6.48)
Available from L'Oreal-appointed hairdressing salons nationwide. For stockists, ring 0181-466 4266.
VERDICT: A compact, handbag-sized container. Contains suncreen. Spray released a fine mist onto my hair, without dribbling down the bottle. Very good styling power without leaving my hair looking rigid. Performed well, but expensive.
RATING: 8/10

BODY DRENCH SYSTEMS
Active Hold Hairspray
200ml: £9.95
Available from The Tanning Shop nationwide and selected professional outlets, including salons and health clubs. For stockists, ring 0171-493 0904.
VERDICT: The bottle was too big to hold comfortably with one hand, which meant the spray went in every direction but little landed on my hair. However, once I had mastered the application, this spray worked well. Hairstyle held without looking stiff or feeling sticky. At this price I wouldn't expect anything less.
RATING: 7/10

REVLON FLEX & CO
Maximum Hold Style and Shine
Non-Aerosol Hairspray
200ml: £2.[illegible]5
Available from larger branches of Boots, major department stores and independent chemists nationwide.
VERDICT: A spray that doesn't disperse over a large enough area, leaving only patches of sprayed hair even when I held the container further from my head than the 10in specified on the label. The spray did, however, hold the style well throughout the day. The liquid didn't dribble down the container but, after only one application, the nozzle was covered in a sticky residue. Good performance for the price.
RATING: 6/10

FINESSE
Moisturising Hairspray Extra Hold
200ml: £2.49
Available from good chemists and department stores nationwide.
VERDICT: A good fine mist that distributed evenly on my hair. However, the nozzle started to clog up the first time I used it and had to be rinsed in warm water after every application — I wouldn't want to have to do that every morning. My hairstyle held well for most of the day but had started to drop by late afternoon.
RATING: 5/10

NICKY CLARKE HAIROMATHERAPY
Extra Hold Styling Spray with Suncreens
200ml: £3.15
Available from Boots, Tesco, Waitrose, John Lewis, Superdrug, Savacentre, Fenwicks, Selfridges, Lloyds chemists, Moss chemists, Harrods, Jenners, Bentalls and William Low.
VERDICT: Stylish aluminium canister which stated that this spray contained aromatherapy extracts and sunscreens. It took a lot of pumps on the handle to activate the spray, which wasn't exactly a fine mist, landing in droplets. Unimpressive application made parts of my hair stiff and unnatural, but didn't touch the rest. It did hold the style, but rather more solidly than I would have liked. Some of the liquid dribbled around the top of the canister.
RATING: 3/10

BOOTS SALON SYSTEM
Non-Aerosol Hairspray for Firm Hold
250ml: £1.79 (price per 200 ml: £1.43)
Available from selected branches of Boots nationwide.
VERDICT: The bottle felt as if it had been smothered in glue after I'd used it. The fine mist sprayed onto my hair efficiently, but also leaked out of the applicator on to my hands. My hair looked good and the style lasted well, but I had to free my fingers from the container. Not a good start to the day.
RATING: 2/10

EDMONDS AROMATHERAPY
Strong Hold Juniper and Orange High Gloss Hairspray
250ml: £3.95 (price per 200ml: £3.16)
Available from Edmonds, 40 Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge, SW3 1NX, or through large branches of Boots nationwide. For mail order and stockists ring: 0171-589 5958.
VERDICT: I ended up with this product all over my clothes and face as the four mini-jets of liquid directed the spray everywhere but my hair. A cumbersome, square-shaped bottled did little to help. The pleasant smell was the only saving grace.
RATING: 1/10

KAREN KAY

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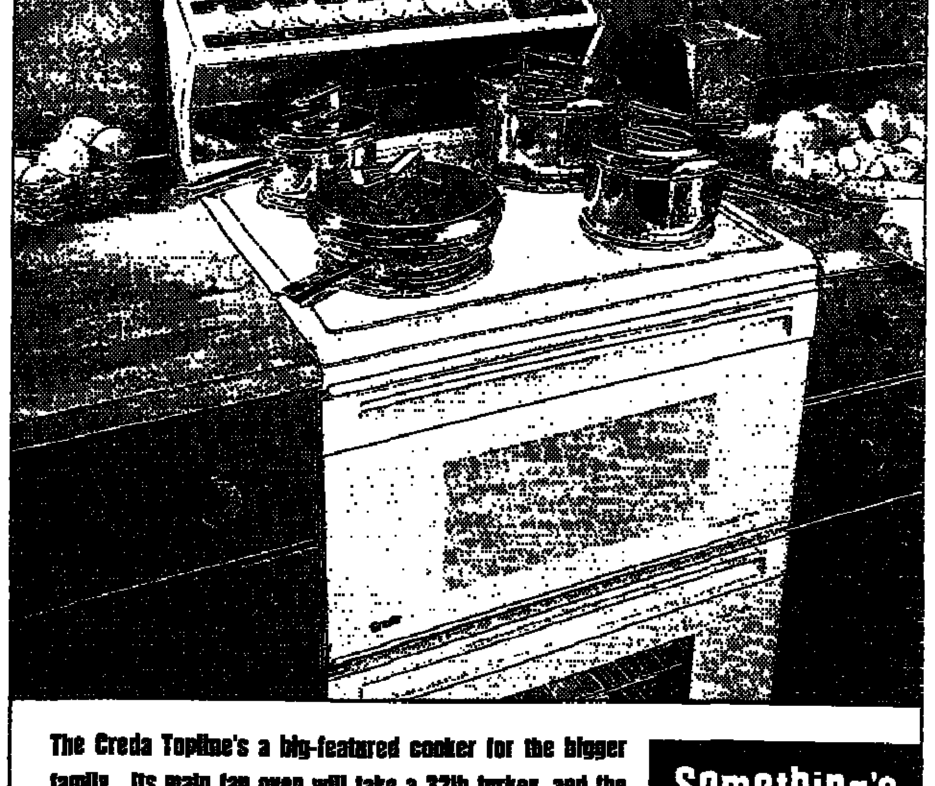

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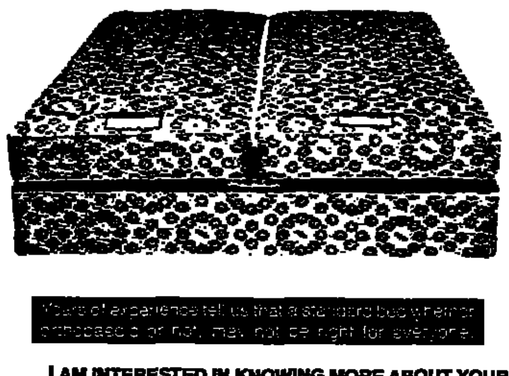

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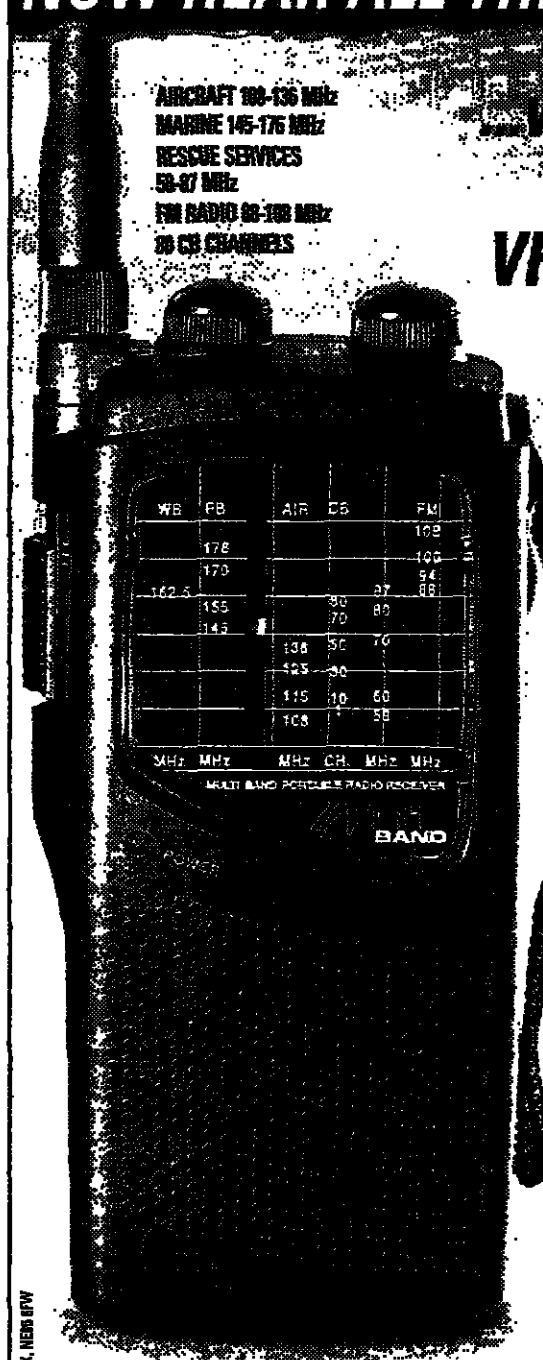

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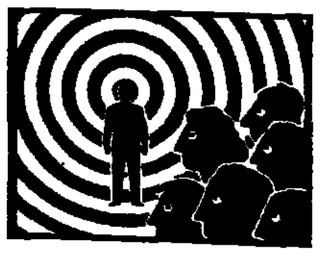

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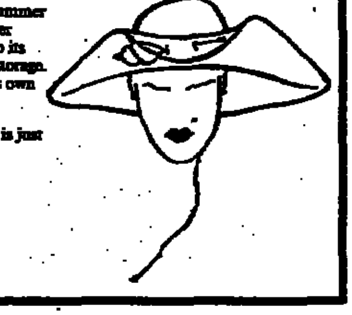

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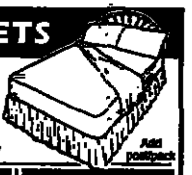

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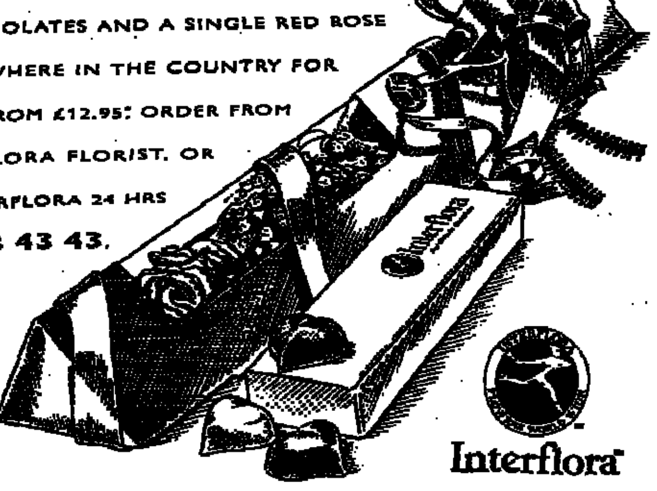

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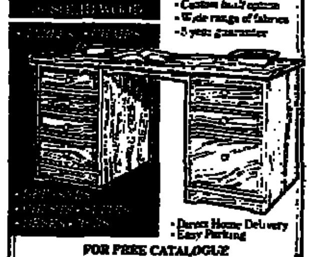

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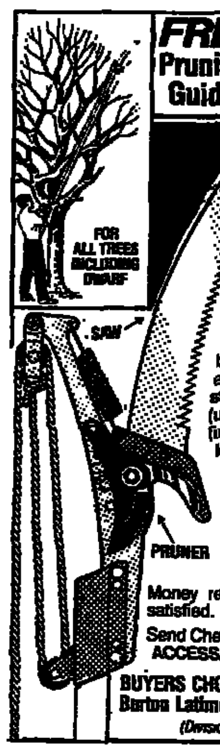
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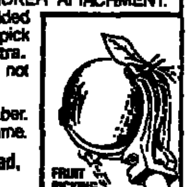

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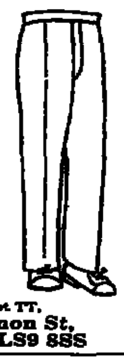

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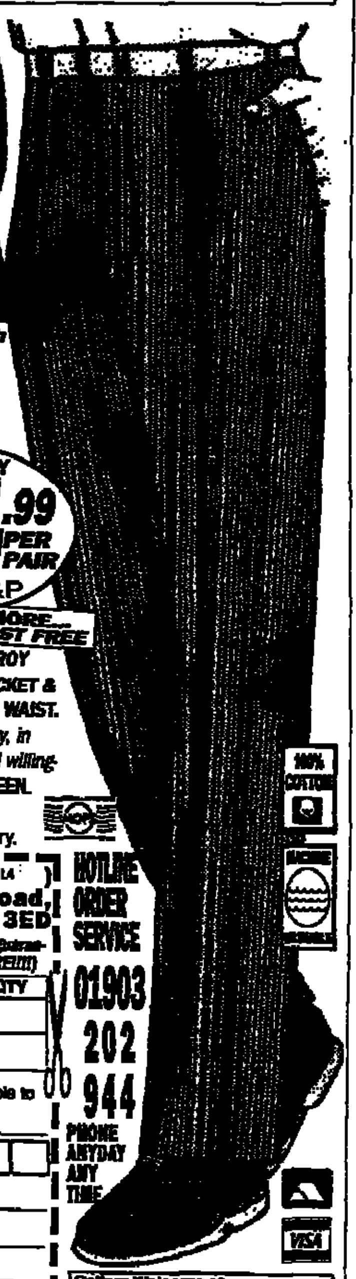

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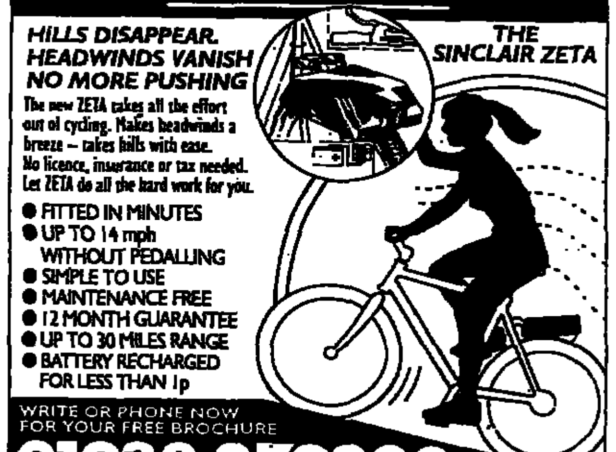

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HOME SWAPS: You don't have to be rich to see the world and stay in the best places, says **Ray Hewinson**

Foreign exchange deal

January in Hawaii, followed by two weeks skiing in Colorado, three weeks in France, 18 days in Amsterdam, then two months in a house overlooking the ocean in California — and it's still only November.

No, we haven't won the lottery. My wife, Sylvia, and I retired five years ago on a reasonable pension, moved down-market and paid off our mortgage. We're better off than the average pensioners — but not exactly rich.

"How, then, can you afford to travel so much?" people ask. It's simple. We seek out the best flight deals, exchange our home and car with a family abroad, and stay in what is usually a prestigious home for anything up to three months.

When we retired we planned to visit relatives in the Antipodes. We had both worked hard throughout our careers and had no inhibitions about spending some of our savings on a five-month trip around the world. After this memorable tour we were bitten by the travel bug but realised that we could not afford another extravaganza. Then we discovered the wonderful world of house exchange.

The slogan on the cover of the Intervac home-exchange directory which fell onto our doormat read: "The book which could change your life." It was not an unreasonable claim because, within a couple of weeks of our directory entry appearing, a trickle of inquiries from would-be exchangers developed into a steady stream. One of them was an inquiry from Vancouver Island and we quickly arranged a "two-centre" exchange. We were met in Denver, Colorado, by the exchange family and driven to their house in Keystone Ranch. After a six-week stay we flew on to Seattle, took the ferry through the Orcas Islands off British Columbia and stayed in Victoria for another four weeks. It all went like a dream.

Encouraged by this success, we accepted invitations to trade with families in Torbay (a week over Easter with our grandson) and Suffolk, followed by a two-month autumn exchange in a small southern Colorado community. We had fallen in love with this State on our first exchange and were not disappointed with the hospitality of this little cowboy town.

From the verandah of our ranch-style home we watched the deer and wild turkeys graze on the scrub and the aspens change from orange to gold and silver on the distant mountain range. Friends of the family in whose house we were staying took us to a rodeo, and we were invited out for countless meals. We were even taken on a flight in a light aircraft.

Our next adventure was a two-month exchange with two retired dentists and their wives. One couple owned a lovely home overlooking the shores of Kauai, the garden island of Hawaii, the other owned a condominium in Winter Park, a premier ski resort in Colorado. We spent a magical six weeks on the island watching the whales as we ate fresh papayas for breakfast, snorkelling off the sandy cove nearby and getting to know the locals, who were the most friendly and generous people imaginable. We returned via the mainland, where we stopped off at Denver and skiied in the Rockies. All this for the cost of the airfare and the usual living expenses (food and fuel is cheaper in America).

After two short summer exchanges in France and Amsterdam, we spent two months in an upmarket beach resort north of San Diego, California. We exchanged with a couple who live in Beverly Hills and enjoyed their holiday home in exclusive Del Mar.

During this time we visited our exchange friends in Colorado, stopping off to discuss a winter exchange with a retired professor and his wife who lived on the edge of the Arizona desert. On our return journey, we spent the night in the Beverly Hills mansion of our current exchangers, parking the four-wheel-drive Chevrolet which we had at our disposal behind the Rolls-Royce Corniche. The maid cooked us breakfast before we were driven to the airport for our homeward flight.

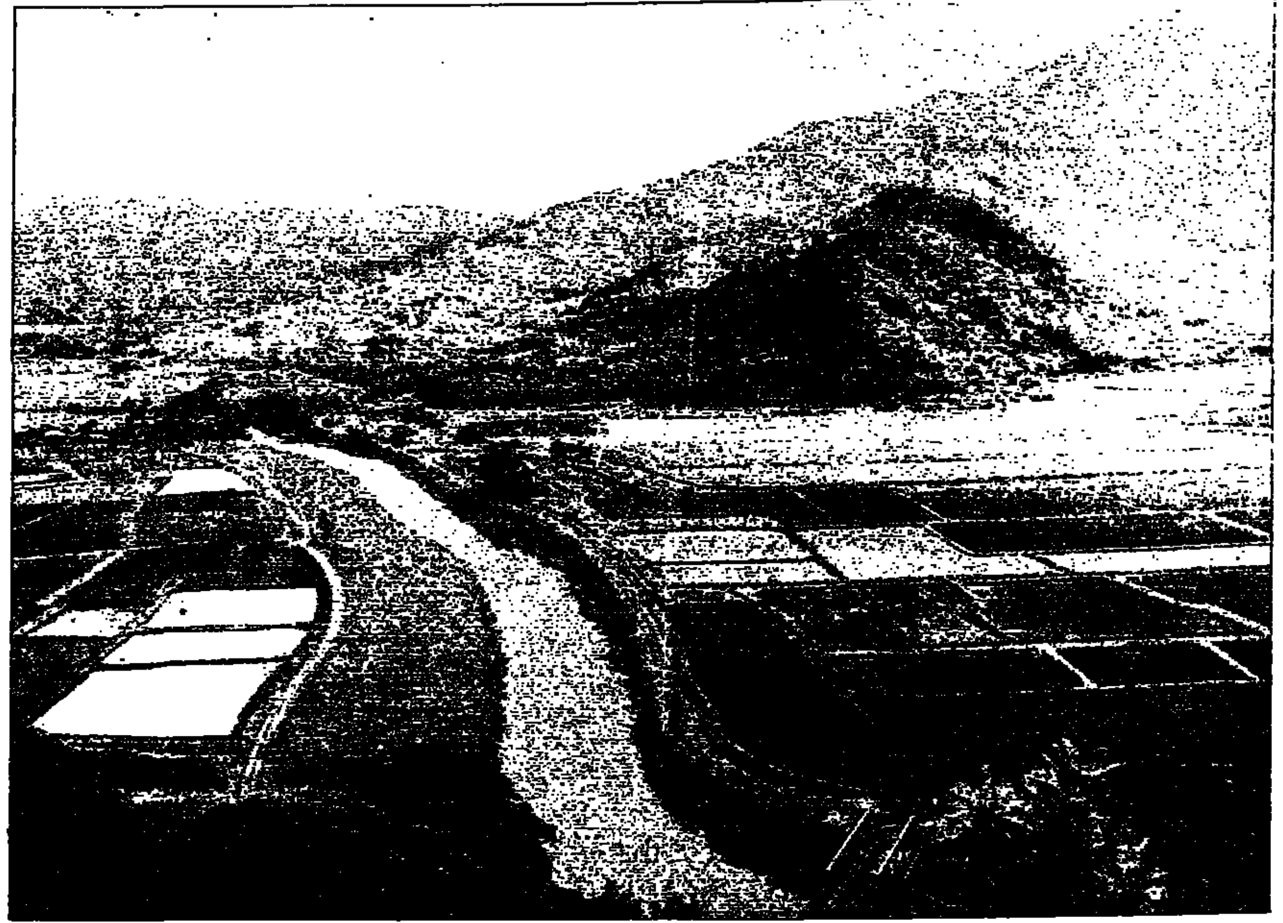
By this time the lady of the house had returned from her stay in our cottage and we asked her how she had adjusted to life without a pool, hot tub or maid. It obviously wasn't a problem because she told us she thought our house was "so cute" and phoned us the following week to ask if we would exchange with one of her neighbours. As Pat Boone lived across the drive and John Bloom (of the washing-machine dynasty) lived next door, we reserved judgment on that.

"Aren't you taking risks allowing strangers into your home?" is the most common question. We have had a few minor breakages, and one exchanger dented the front of our car, but we took out insurance cover for such problems when we joined the scheme. The agency accepts no responsibility for its members' shortcomings. Some exchangers offer references but the scheme depends on trust. We trust people with our home and they trust us with theirs. In ten exchanges our house has always been well cared for. It is possible to make a reasonable assessment of potential exchangers via letters and telephone conversations, and so far we have been fortunate in our contacts. Exchanging homes has produced a huge network of new friends, and many of our friends and neighbours have enjoyed meeting our guests. Last year two of our friends were invited to Colorado and we all met up in the holiday home where we had spent our first exchange.

You don't need a mansion to succeed in the house exchange business; all sorts of homes are listed in the Intervac brochure from terraced houses to classy manors. We are fortunate to own an 18th century, end-of-terrace cottage midway between London and Oxford, in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. It is built of brick and flint and has a small, attractive garden. The photograph in the directory seems to appeal, particularly to west-coast Americans. This year we received around 60 inquiries, half of which came from the United States, and others from as far afield as Iceland and Australia. There is some excellent, and surprisingly cheap, annual travel insurance around and we take adequate cover for accident, loss or illness.

Joining Intervac could not be easier. New members give details of what they have to offer (including a photograph of the house for a small extra charge), what limitations they wish to put on exchangers (for example, a no-smoking rule) and what kind of exchange they are seeking, preferred locations, dates and time span. The cost of joining is modest compared with the advantages. Rates vary according to the size of the scheme. Intervac charges £65 per entry and covers 43 countries. The company publishes three directories annually, the main one in December. Before agreeing an exchange it is wise to ensure that both parties agree terms, such as payment of telephone bills, and understand what is expected of them, such as feeding the cat or mowing the lawn. It is also helpful to prepare a file with details of transport, places of interest to visit and how to contact emergency services.

We have certainly changed our lifestyle over the past few years and have travelled beyond our wildest dreams. The children's inheritance will be a little smaller but we wouldn't have missed our adventures for anything.


MICHAEL YAMASHITA

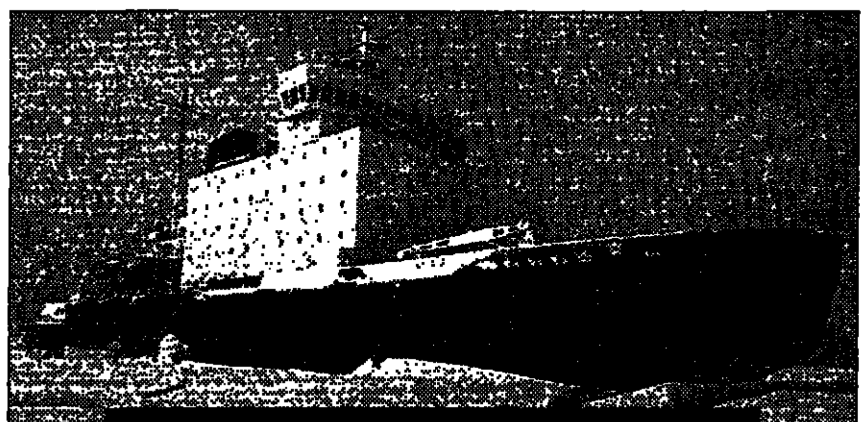
Exchanges allow you to visit places you would otherwise not be able to afford, such as the island of Kauai, Hawaii

Home swaps: fact file

☐ **The Hewinsons book flights through Trailfinders (0171-938-3366, fax 937-9294, for long-haul journeys, or 0171-937-5400 for transatlantic flights and Europe).**

☐ **Intervac is at 3 Orchard Court, North Wraxall, Wiltshire SN14 7AD (01225-892208). Membership: £65 a year.**

☐ **A seven-week stay in Del Mar last autumn cost the Hewinsons a total of £1,344, including Intervac membership, two return flights to Los Angeles at £402 each, allowing £105 for visits to Sea World safari park, museums, Del Mar zoo and wine tours, and £390 for a seven-day tour of Arizona, staying with Intervac friends and including two nights in a motel, meals and petrol.**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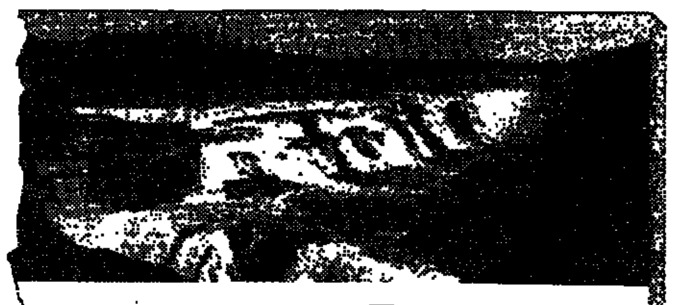
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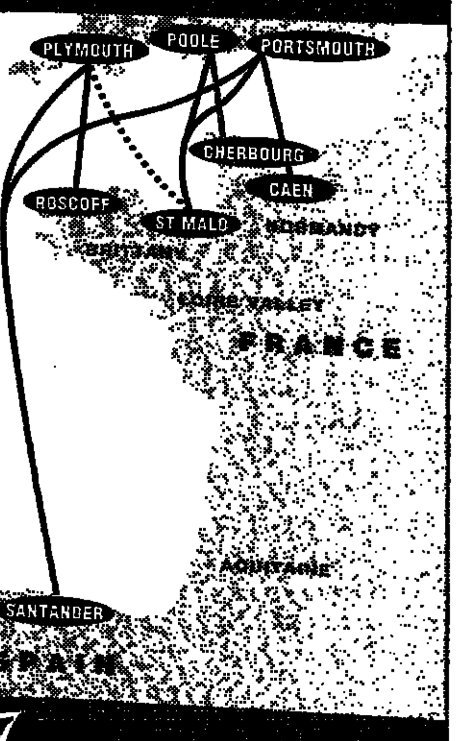

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مكبر من الأصل

BARBADOS: Shakespeare and opera in the annual Holders Season, a highlight for visitors and locals

Hot nights of high drama

CORRIE SCOTT

Garden rehearsals for *The Taming of the Shrew*

Jump up, jump up, jump up, jump up! the beat insists, subtle as a steamhammer, and it is useless to resist. Be you ever such a two-left-feeter at home, you find yourself getting up under that Caribbean sky and shaking your booty.

After a few nights, though, you long for a little diversity, music more challenging than Bob Marley's *Exodus*. Richard Strauss's *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, perhaps, some Shakespeare or even grand opera. The sort of entertainment you'd expect to find in London or New York. Of course, it's a daft idea but that, magically, is just what you will find in Barbados every year round about Easter, when the Holders Season is under way.

For no sensible reason, Johnny and Wendy Kidd (parents of superwaif Jody) got together with a friend, Richard Hanlon, and dreamed up a cultural festival: the dream became reality and what started life four years ago as a few evenings of opera extracts is now a three-week season of opera, Shakespeare, drama, recitals and cabaret, with an ambitious sporting programme as well.

Most events take place at the Kidds's family home, Holders, an old plantation house. Last year, while Britain shivered, Nichola McAuliffe, Christopher Biggins and Kit and the Widow went through the living hell of rehearsing *The Taming of the Shrew* in the sun-bathed garden, with only a swimming pool at hand.

Informality is the keynote of the Holders Season. On the first night of *Madam Butterfly*, where the Wren Orchestra competed with whistling tree frogs (pitched somewhere between B and D) in the natural amphitheatre of the Holders garden, the audience sat on plastic chairs ranged on the grass in the shade of towering mahogany and flamboyant trees. And while some designer frocks and serious rocks were on show, there were plenty of shorts and sandals, and the High Commissioner was wearing a green spotted shirt borrowed from his son.

From the start, everyone was determined to keep this a festival for Barbados, and although visitors outnumbered everyone else at the cabaret acts held in various ritzy hotels in the west-coast parishes of St James's and St Peter's, the majority of the audiences are Bajan. Since Bajan English has retained some of the cadences, lilt and colour of Elizabethan, Shakespeare's language presents little obstacle and I sat near some children who were open-mouthed with pleasure at Kate's antics as Petrucchio tames her spirit by starvation.

It's thesps by night but during the day sport comes to the fore. Last year's celebrity golf tournament saw Geoffrey Boycott and Nigel Mansell competing on the Royal Westmoreland's world-class course and, if you didn't fancy the polo, you could have climbed up to the diminutive Holder's Hill pitch where the fast bowlers have to cross the road and keep an eye out for oncoming traffic before taking a run up. Rather Heath Robinson you might think, but the 1995 match, free to anyone who cared to turn up, saw the Holders Village team pitted against an eleven flown in by John Paul Getty.

It's all thoroughly laid back, unless you're running the season. Richard Hanlon, executive producer, told me he'd slept for three days at the end of last season. Fortunately, all that's forgotten now, and the fourth season is looming.

Nichola McAuliffe returns to star in *Twelfth Night*, Christopher Biggins will direct *Tosca* and *The Mikado*, and the finale will be a tribute to George Gershwin.

Relaxed it may be, but it's also very *Hello!*-ish. At last year's opening gala I spotted Claudette Colbert, 90-odd and still recognisably the sassy heiress who had Clark Gable smitten in *It Happened One Night* all those years ago. Lesley Joseph, from *Birds of a Feather*, had rented a beach house, and Nicholas Parsons arrived to get married, a quiet affair with a few close acquaintances and the photographers from, yes, *Hello!*.

Despite the glam names, there is an undiscovered, low-key charm about the Holders Season at present but if, as rumour has it, Signor Pavarotti puts in an appearance in 1997, it will never be the same again. Better put your towel on the beach now, before the crowds arrive.

MARY LEA

Long lazy days on the beach can be followed by evenings of festival entertainment of the sort you'd find in London

Getting there

☐ The fourth Holders Season runs from March 9-30 1996. Make arrangements through your hotel or contact Holders (00 1 809 432 6385, Fax 00 1 809 4326 461). Tickets from £8-£50.

☐ The author was a guest of the Barbados Tourism Authority, 263 Tottenham Court Road, London W1 (0171-636 9448/9, Fax 0171-637 1496), and BA.

☐ Flights from Britain are operated by British West Indian Airways and BA, from £713 return. There are weekly flights on Concorde (£4,620 return) on March 2,9,16,23,30 and 31.

☐ Operators: Caribbean Connection (01244 341131) and Elegant Resorts (01244 897 999).

☐ Hotels: Cobbler's Cove, St Peter (Relais & Chateaux) (00 1 809 422 2291, fax 422 1480). Sandy Lane, St James (00 1 809 432 131, fax 432 2954). Glitter Bay, Porters (00 1 809 422 5555, fax 422 3940). Royal Pavilion, Porters (00 1 809 422 5555, fax 422 3940). Sandpiper Inn, St James Beach (00 1 809 422 2372, fax 422 0900). Coral Reef Club, St James (00 1 809 422 2372, fax 422 1776). Treasure Beach, Paynes Bay, St James (00 1 809 432 1346, fax 432 1094). Colony Club, Porters (00 1 809 438 4690, fax 422 1726).

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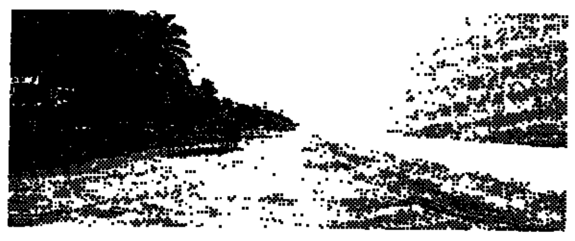

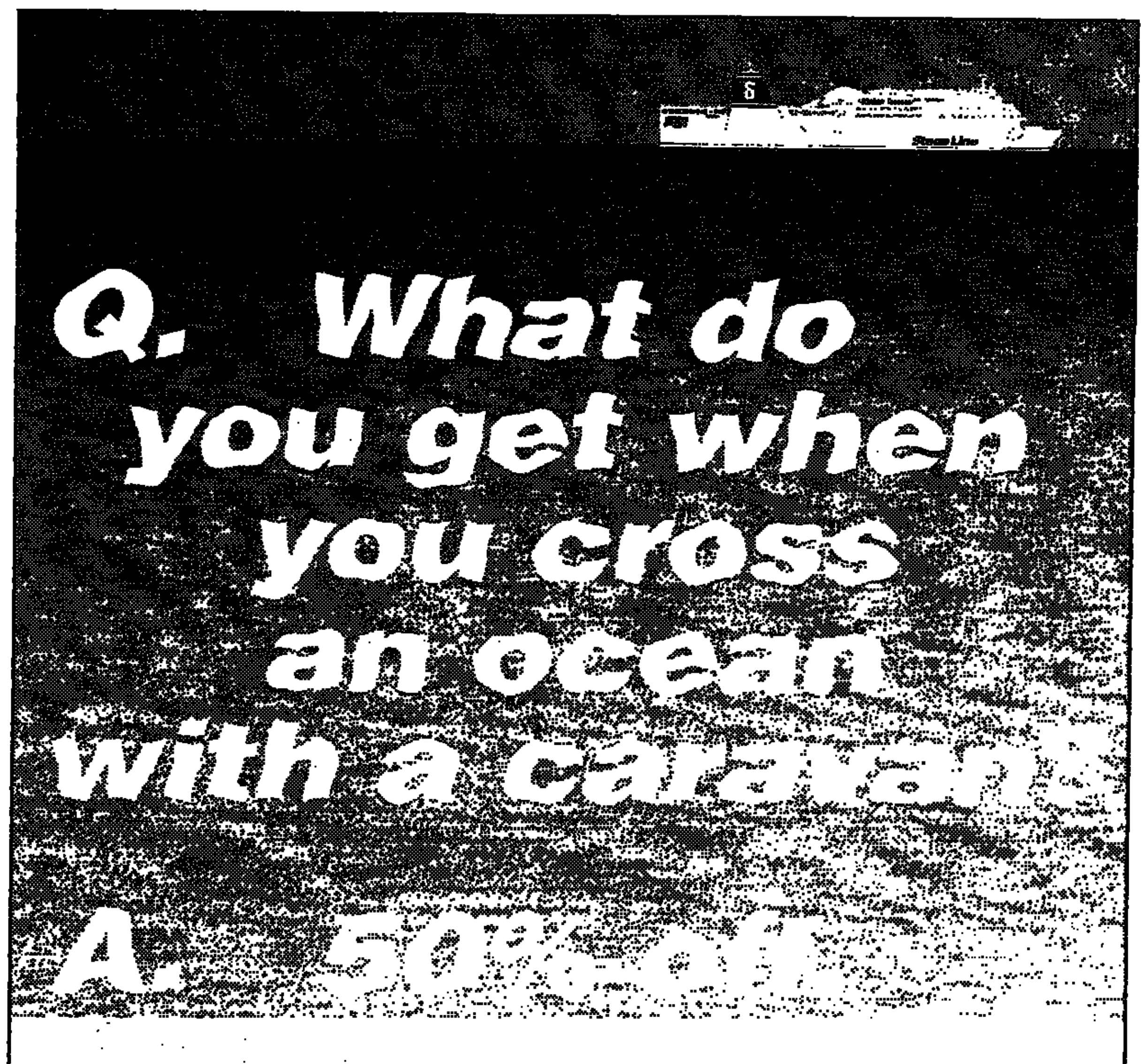
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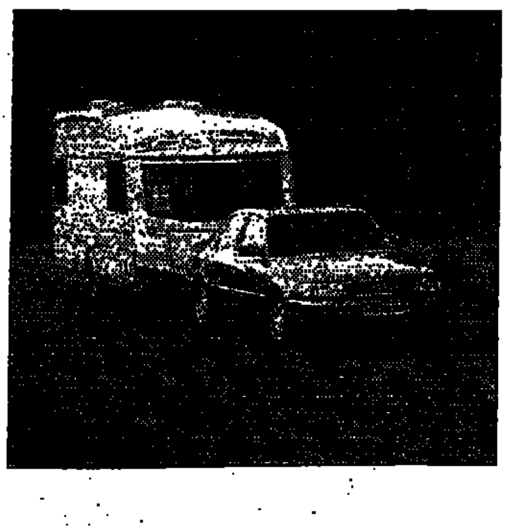

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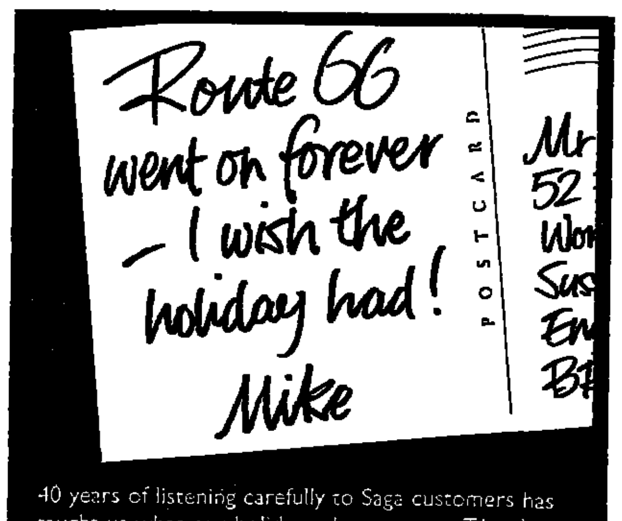
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EGYPT: The newly opened tomb of Queen Nefertari near Luxor is claimed to be the most beautiful of all

Secrets of a favoured wife

Part of one of the many exquisite murals in Nefertari's tomb in the Valley of the Queens

A "new" tomb sounds like a contradiction in terms when it is in the Valley of the Queens, but that is the simplest way to describe Egypt's latest tourist attraction, and provides an excellent reason for a return trip, or an added incentive for a first one.

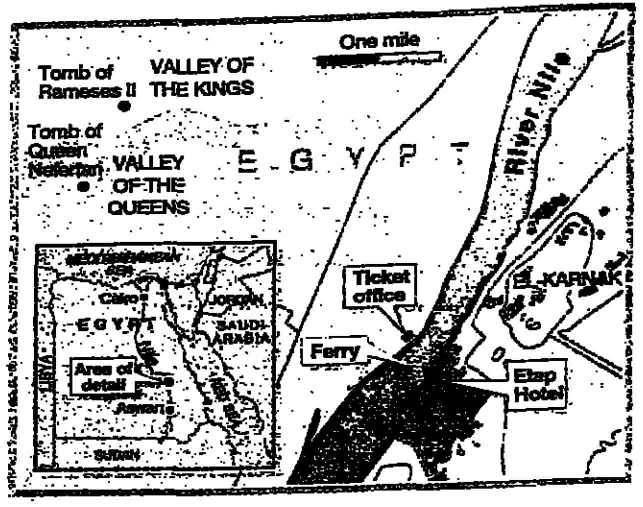
More than 90 years after its discovery, Queen Nefertari's tomb has been opened to the public for the first time. New is the wrong word for what was intended to be the last resting place of Rameses II's favourite wife, cut into a hillside about 3,200 years ago, but the astonishing thing is that the colours of the murals are as bright and rich as if they had just been painted.

You cannot just wander in on a whim, or expect to be herded through as part of a package tour, but if you make the effort to be one of only 150 visitors allowed in each day, you will be rewarded with an unforgettable sight.

The tomb was discovered in 1904 by the Italian Ernesto Schiaparelli and is one of 80 found in the Valley of the Queens. Most are uninscribed. Nefertari's, one of only four open to visitors at the moment, is revealed to be overwhelmingly beautiful and gorgeously decorated — the best in Egypt some people say.

When it was found, the painted stucco relief was badly damaged by salt and water, the queen's mummy was destroyed and her treasures long plundered. Now, after meticulous restoration work, largely provided by the Getty Conservation Institute of California, the salt encrustations have been removed and the slipping stucco invisibly refixed with slivers of bark from the Japanese mulberry tree.

A first staircase leads down to the hall and the start of the treasure trove of wall paintings. The vision that greeted our party was almost too much to take in and, at first, disconcertingly perfect. Apart from one blank wall to the left as you enter the hall, where the most badly damaged reliefs had fallen to bits, every inch of the 520 square yards, apart from the new wood floor, is decorated.



Through the corridors and pillared halls, a life-size Nefertari is shown in numerous scenes, before different gods of the underworld beneath a ceiling of deep-blue sky scattered with gold stars.

Although her tomb has only just been officially opened, Nefertari has always been famous: she is the same consort of Rameses II (who lived to the age of 93, reigned 67 years, from 1304 BC to 1236 BC, and fathered 200 children) to whom he paid the honour of building a temple beside his own at Abu Simbel.

Nefertari, who was reputed to be a great beauty (her name means "beautiful lady"), is shown on her tomb walls to be tall and slim, elegant in a long white dress with a simple sash, as with perfect posture she makes her offerings to the gods or plays a game of draughts. The craftsmanship is particularly fine, and unusual in that shading was used to give her face form.

> ‘Murals are as bright and rich as if just painted’

We had, by chance, picked a quiet time for our visit, at 11am on a Saturday morning. Our tour was unhurried, and there were only a handful of other similarly awestruck visitors, in welcome contrast to the noisy, jostling groups in the other tombs. I was touched at the genuine pride of the attendants, who, far from being blasé after a lifetime of tomb-sitting, eagerly pointed out hidden features.

Contrary to reports just before the tomb opened last November, visitors were not made to wear face masks to preserve the walls from the moisture of their breath, or to shuffle about in shoe covers. We were allowed to walk through the 30-yard long tomb without so much as a buffer of glass panels or guard rails. Its guardians are satisfied that the relatively small numbers passing through are no danger to the relics.

There is talk of building a replica tomb next door to accommodate coach parties, and, although there are no definite plans so far, a visit to the real tomb, sooner rather than later, seems a wise precaution.

Although the high entrance price — £E100 (about £20), which is ten to 20 times higher than for other tombs — has reduced the number of visitors, Nefertari's last resting place is still popular. For the best chance of getting in you need a flexible itinerary which includes a stay in Luxor. A Nile cruise with a tight schedule is not suitable — though not impossible if you are bold enough to jump ship and prepared to miss out on a "must see", such as El-Karnak, because tickets have to be bought on the day, and no tour operator can guarantee you one. It is best to go it alone.

The ticket office is on the west bank of the Nile just behind the Colossi of Memnon, and is open 6am-noon and 1-4pm. You should aim to be there by 7.30am. If you go later and are not able to get a ticket, you can take the opportunity to examine the Colossi, the Ramasseum round the corner, any other sites you have not yet seen.

From your hotel in Luxor, walk or take a taxi to the tourist ferry in front of the Etap Hotel. The first ferry leaves at 6am and the crossing takes ten minutes. On the other side of the river, taxis will be waiting to run you up to the ticket kiosk and on to the Valley of the Queens, wait however long you need, and then return you to the ferry. Before getting into the taxi, however, negotiate the hire charge, not per person, of £E20 (about £4), bearing in mind that the driver will expect to receive £E25 including *baksheesh*.

Tickets for the other tombs, and temples on the west bank can be bought from the kiosk next to the ferry before you engage the taxi.

Queen Nefertari's tomb is this year's hot ticket, the one everyone will ask you about when you get home. There's no doubt that its exclusivity adds to its touristic kudos. And, perhaps, part of the excitement and satisfaction comes from winning the obstacle race to get in. Whatever the reason, it is truly a gem.

CAROLINE HENDRIE

● *The author was a guest of Somak Holidays (0181-423 3000), which offers a seven-night Nile cruise aboard the* Osiris *from £399, including flights from Gatwick, transfers and full board. The same cruise followed by seven nights' B&B at the Hilton Luxor costs from £544.*

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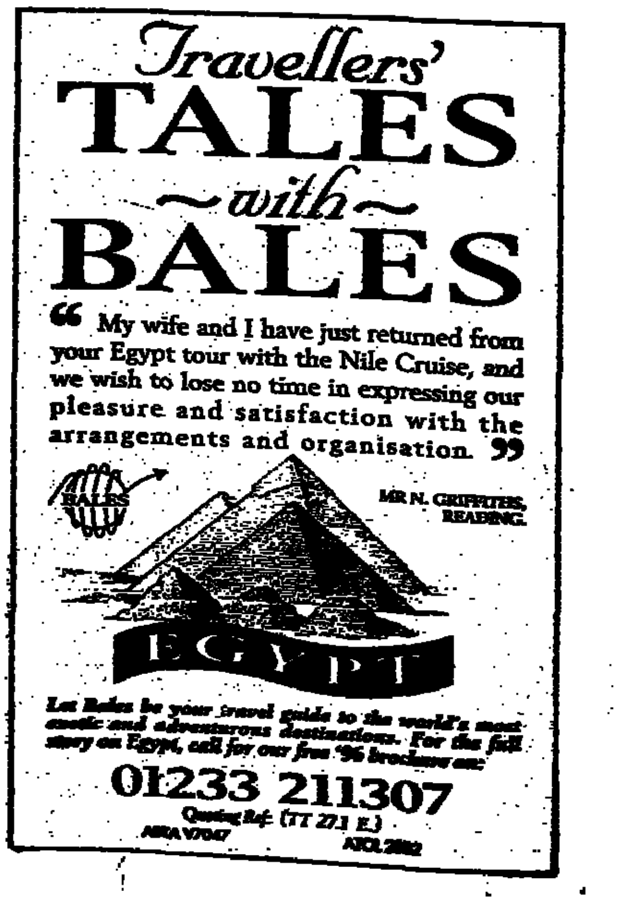
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هكذا من الأصل

EUROPE: For £275, the Inter-Rail opens the borders to 26 countries for a month

Jump aboard the freedom train

t was raining in Berlin, so we went to Bergen. There aren't many holi- days where you can aff- to change your plans so stically on a whim — or ause of the weather. But was one.

/e were Inter-Railing and, £275 a head, we had the :dom of Europe — the :dom to explore more than dozen countries, and to erience a kaleidoscope of :ures for a month. And at a kaleidoscope.

!urosceptics need have no r; there is no danger of a ted Europe. Anyone who s threatened by such a cept should take an Inter- l trip to experience the erences for themselves.

iven the railway stations different: only in Paris ld there be the ornate, nted ceiling and turn-of-the- tury luxury of the station aurant at the Gare de n; and only in the former it Berlin Hauptbahnhof ld there be a queue, pa- led by guards, to enter a ermarket which has pick- cabbage as its main duct.

he ever-changing national times, traits, tastes and ivities of Europeans can be npsed from a railway riage.

n Norway passengers are red ice-cream on the jour- from Oslo to Bergen and train travels over spectacu- mountain passes where w lies even in the summer. Switzerland the immacu- carriages and the mani- ed countryside make you l like a passenger on a toy- in network; in Hungary the proaches to main stations littered with the carcasses rusting steam locomotives.

The Inter-Rail scheme is a ll-established idea. An all- es "global" ticket, costing 75 and valid for one month, es the holder unrestricted cond-class rail travel oughout the 26 participat- European countries. Last r, for the first time, Europe s divided into five zones; a et for 15 days of travel in zone costs £185, or £220 for month in two zones. In dition, tickets are now available to those over 26, although the prices are higher and the ticket is valid only for Northern and Eastern Europe (15 days, £215; one month, £275). It was some time before we realised that the retired history teacher from the West Coast of Ireland, whom we had met late at night on Copenhagen station, was on the same holiday as ourselves.

There are a few drawbacks to the Inter-Rail ticket. Within the United Kingdom you get only 30 per cent off rail journeys and a 50 per cent reduction on most ferry routes to the Continent. Indeed, most guides to travelling with an Inter-Rail ticket suggest that it is cheaper to travel to ferry ports by coach rather than train.

In addition to this, throughout Europe various extra reservations and supplements are payable on inter-city services. The wise traveller soon learns to check these out and to pay any extra at the railway station before departure — it is less hassle and cheaper.

The key to making the most of the Inter-Rail ticket is using the enormous flexibility it allows. We had planned to visit Budapest for a couple of nights only, but discovered that on £10 a day you can live like a king, so we spent a few afternoons in pampered luxury at the thermal sulphur baths of the Hotel Gellert, and stayed for the national celebrations of St Stephen's day.

Your interests can shape the holiday; of all the people we met Inter-Railing, not one had the same route or set of places to visit as ourselves. We went to Bayeux to see the tapestry; to Chamonix for some mountain walking; to Lausanne to visit the museum of the Olympic movement; and to Feldkirch because we had changed some money into Austrian schillings before we left England. Then we visited Budapest and Prague, before going to Germany to spend the weekend with some friends who work near Nuremberg.

After this, we went to Berlin, where we were just in time to see the remains of Checkpoint Charlie, surrounded by crushed fragments of the Berlin Wall, before the area is redeveloped. We finished our month by visiting Scandinavia, which, contrary to its reputation of being expensive, proved to be one of the cheapest countries on our itinerary. This is mainly due to the fact that Norwegian law permits wild camping on any site that is more than 150 metres away from a building. The Inter-Rail centres at Copenhagen and Oslo stations (funded by the state-owned rail companies which want to encourage tourism) are worth visiting; at the very least they provide an opportunity for a cheap and much-needed shower.

There is only one item that is indispensable on an Inter-Rail tour; the *Thomas Cook European Rail Timetable*. Read it carefully, and pay special attention to the footnotes; a quick glance which ignored these led us to spend a night outside Oslo station with gentle drizzle for company.

To travel Europe by train is an incomparable experience; it allows you to visit old friends and to make new ones; to see places most only read of in newspapers or history books. It definitely shows that whatever the politicians of the present or future decide, people in Europe may live with each other in friendship, but the differences between them will survive.

> It was raining in Berlin, so we went to Bergen

The hungry Inter-Rail traveller can taste those differences at every café and railway station visited — even when the meals are the least expensive. There is a world of difference between the bread and cheese of France, washed down with a glass of wine, and the bread and fish of Norway, fresh from the market on the dockside at Bergen.

But the appetite that is really whetted is the appetite for travel. At the very least, a month spent travelling Europe by Inter-Rail provides you with enough trailers for future holidays to last you the rest of your life.

MATTHEW BRYANT

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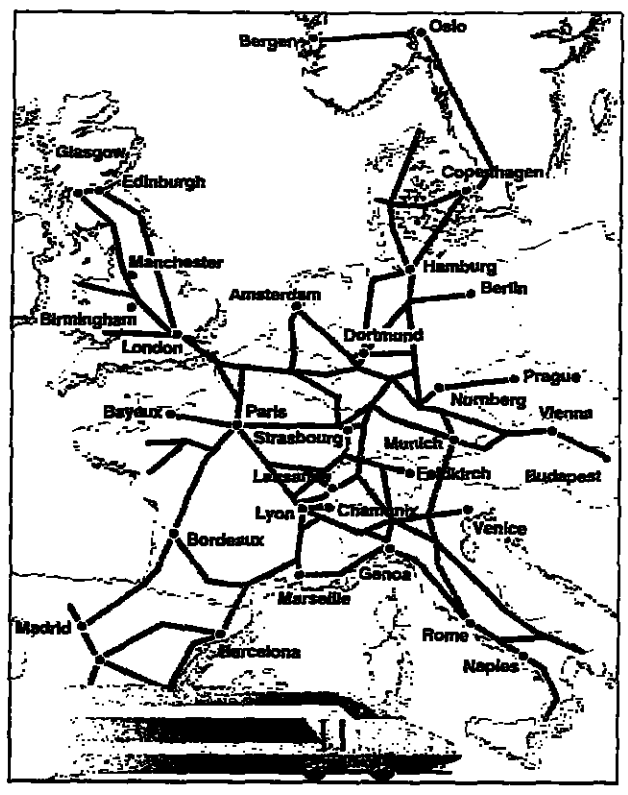
Making tracks — but don't forget the *Thomas Cook European Rail Timetable*



Inter-Rail pass and zones

Information and booking: the International Rail Centre at Victoria station, London, or phone 0171-834 2345. Credit card bookings can be made on 0171-828 0892.

Prices: *One zone for 15 days, £185; Two zones for one month, £220; Any three zones for one month, £245; All zones for one month, £275. For £5, the centre will help to plan an itinerary.*

Zones:
A: Republic of Ireland.
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F: Spain, Portugal, Morocco.
G: Italy, Greece, Turkey, Slovakia. Includes AND/HML ferry services between Brindisi (Italy) and Patras (Greece).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

TEICHOPSIA

(c) A term coined by Dr Hubert Airy, son of the Astronomer Royal, and first published in the *Transactions* of the Royal Society, 1878. It describes the aura (warning) of a migraine attack — the flashing zigzag lines, the hallucination slowly enlarging, often with a scotoma (aura of blindness) in the centre, all of 5 to 60 (average 30) minute duration.

EMPEROR'S CHAMBERMAID

(c) The 14th King's Hussars, now the 14th/20th King's Hussars, a famous English cavalry regiment trained in the hunting field. At the Battle of Vittoria, 1813, they captured Joseph Bonaparte's carriage and retained his silver chamber-pot as a souvenir.

COCKPIT OF EUROPE

(a) By the accidents of history, geography and folly, the muddy place now called Belgium has seen more squawking and fighting than anywhere else in the world. Forget the Romans, it has been the stage for the battles of Ramillies (1706), Fontenoy (1745), Jamappes (1792), Ligny, Quatre Bras and Waterloo (1815), Mons, Ypres and much other barbed wire, bombs and blood (1914-18).

Damascus to Palmyra

Syria has never been an easy place to visit, and often in the past involving multiple border crossings from neighbouring countries causing delay and a reduction in the amount of actual exploration time. Since the ideal time to visit is between September and May and that the best starting point is Damascus, we shall be operating a short flight service from London Gatwick direct to Damascus during this period. Needless to say, this also considerably reduces the cost.

This is a wonderful opportunity to visit Syria, one of the world's most fascinating countries. We reach Damascus in the evening and spend the first night in the oldest living city in the world and the Islamic capital under the Omayyads. Exploration of the city has to be on foot, navigating the tortuous alleys of the old city is wonderful. For many the highlight will be the Church of Ananaias at the end of a Street Called Straight. Here, the stories of the Bible come magically to life, irrespective of your religious beliefs. We will see the chapel commemorating the lowering down of St Paul from a window.

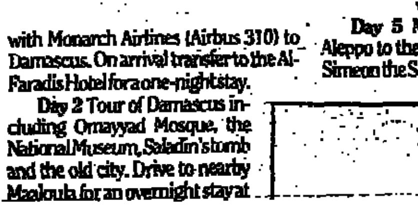
Palmyra is a very special place - the city has colonnaded streets and monumental arches but is perhaps most well known for the Temple of Baal.

Aleppo has the largest medieval citadel in the world and finest remaining example of Arab military architecture. There are some four miles of covered souks to explore, each lively street specialising in its own trade. Another fascination of this city is the beautifully preserved inhabited historical homes many with attractive courtyards that can take one back in time with their gracious style and untouched quality. From Aleppo we will be visiting the 5th-century Church of St Simeon the Stylite who positioned himself atop a 16-metre pillar for 40 years.

A visit will also be made to Ebla where 16,000 clay tablets dating back to 2250 BC were discovered. Crusader history holds a special fascination for many and the visit to Crac des Chevaliers, the residence of the Crusader Knights Hospitalers, will not disappoint.

Finally, Bosra contains the most unique Roman Theatre anywhere. The Ayyubids (Saladin's Dynasty) incorporated it into a 12th-century castle. The city also has Roman baths.

visiting Damascus, Maaloula, Palmyra, Aleppo, Ebla, Ugarit, Homs, Crac des Chevaliers and Bosra - 7 nights from £595.00



with Monarch Airlines (Airbus 310) to Damascus. On arrival transfer to the Al-Faradis Hotel for a one-night stay.

Day 2 Tour of Damascus including Omayyad Mosque, the National Museum, Saladin's tomb and the old city. Drive to nearby Maaloula for an overnight stay at

mental arches and tombs. Overnight in Palmyra.

Day 4 In the morning walk through the ruins, then drive to Aleppo for a two-night stay at the Pullman Hotel. On the way visit Ebla, where 16,000 clay tablets were discovered.

Day 5 Morning excursion from Aleppo to the 5th-century church of St Simeon the Stylite. Return to Aleppo and visit the Citadel, the National Museum, the Souk and explore the covered bazaars, the largest in the Middle East.

Day 6 Drive towards the Mediterranean via the Castle of Saladin and briefly visit the Phoenician city of Ugarit which gave the world the first alphabet. Continue south along the coast to visit the Crusader cathedral of Tartous and on to Homs for a one-night stay at the Safir Hotel.

Day 7 Today visit Crac des Chevaliers, the residence of the Crusader Knights Hospitalers. Then to Bosra to see the finely preserved Roman Theatre and Citadel, return to Damascus for a one-night stay.

Day 8 In the morning make a visit to the Church of Ananaias at the end of a Street Called Straight. Spend the rest of the day in Damascus with the opportunity to shop in the local markets or explore the city independently. Board the evening flight and return directly to London Gatwick.

Departure Dates & Prices

Wednesdays - per person in a twin

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Feb 14, 21, 28	£630.00
Mar 6, 13	£630.00
Mar 20, 27	£630.00
Apr 3	£665.00
Apr 10, 17, 24	£605.00
May 1	£605.00
May 8, 15, 22	£595.00

Wednesdays - per person in a twin

Sept 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£630.00
Oct 7, 14, 21, 28	£630.00
Nov 4, 11, 18, 25	£630.00
Dec 2, 9, 16	£630.00
Dec 23, 30	£665.00

Supplement

per person

Single £165.00

Price includes: air travel, transfers and road transportation, accommodation on half board, sightseeing, local representative/guides.

Not included: travel insurance, airport taxes, visas, tipping, entrance fees. All prices are subject to change.

Important Note: the sequential order of the tour may sometimes be changed in order to avoid congestion at the sites.

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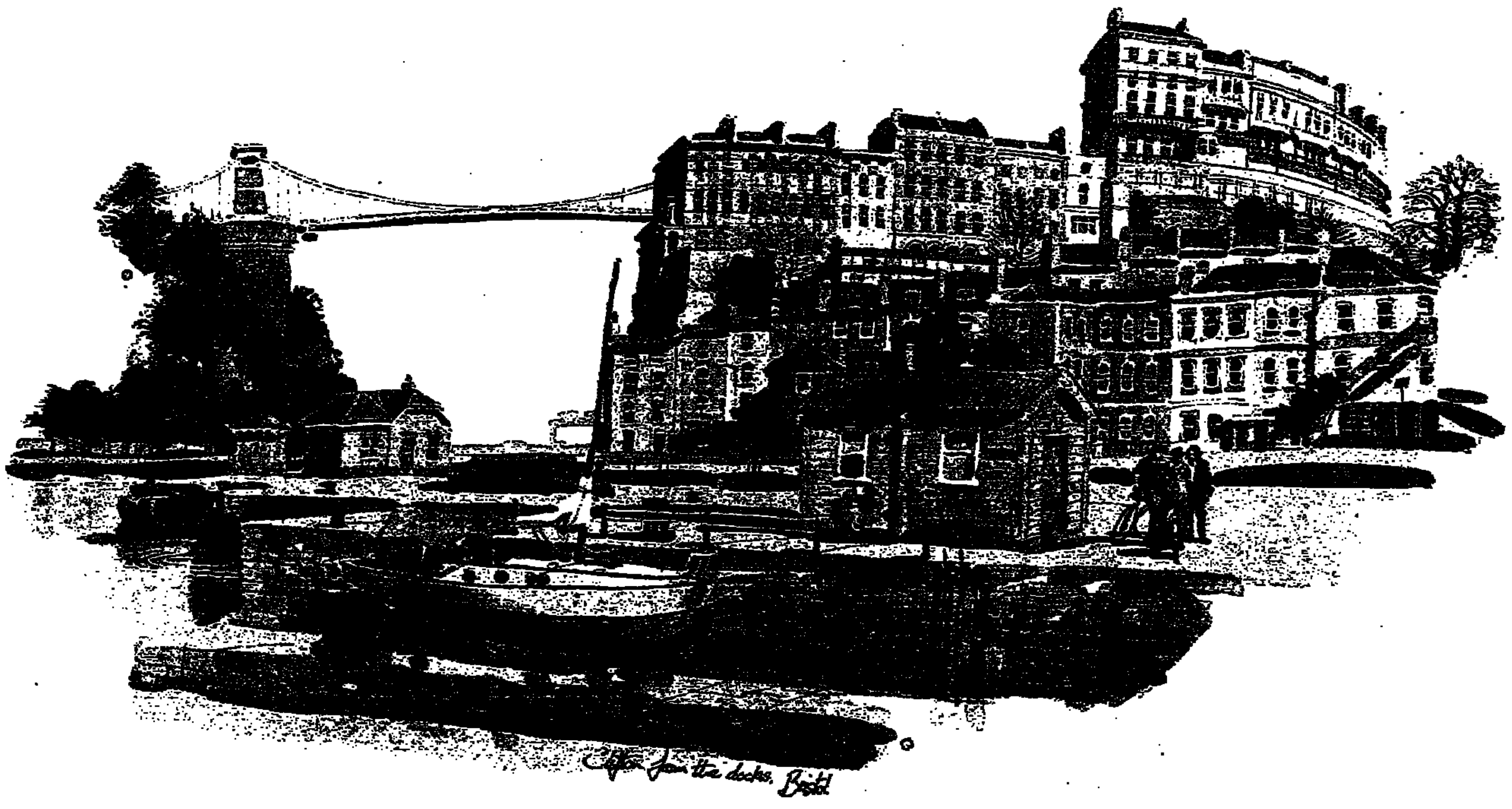
IoT

UNIVERSITY CITIES: With UCAS offers in the post, **Jessica Gorst-Williams** presents a two-part guide

A course of discovery for every fresher


Clifton from the docks, Bristol

MATTHEW COOK

FEW places leave such abiding memories as where you went to university. Yet as UCAS offers tumble through letterboxes, the other, broader meaning of a "university place" tends to be overlooked.

To help this year's hopefuls put faces to the place-names on their degree course applications, here is a whistle-stop tour around six cities with major universities — Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield, Southampton and York are featured next week — that are mostly off the usual tourist track. London and Edinburgh are left out, as they are likely to be familiar enough already: Oxford and Cambridge because this year's admissions die is now cast.

Many university cities are sites of vigorous urban and cultural renewal, and each has a distinctive life force. Finding out how this blends in with personal chemistry can only be achieved by going there. Parents should preferably come too, as they will need to be in the know during last-minute nerves.

Hotel recommendations here are based on word-of-mouth suggestions. It is always wise to ask for a brochure and confirm prices. Attractions were chosen with all the family in mind and opening times are for winter, which usually means until March 31. Any concessions for *Times* readers will also apply until then.

BIRMINGHAM

FLYOVERS including the infamous Spaghetti Junction, a network of fast roads and a canal system more extensive than that of Venice make Britain's second-largest city seem bent on getting people in and out as fast as possible. But although Birmingham does have seedy, boarded-up ghettos, there are also leafy suburbs, pavement cafés and open spaces. Museums abound, the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is based here and the Symphony Hall is home to Sir Simon Rattle's City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Short breaks

☐ New Hall Country House, Walmley Road, Sutton Coldfield B76 1QX (0121-378 2442). About seven miles from Birmingham University. Two nights dinner, B&B from £166 per person sharing.

☐ Swallow Hotel, 12 Hagley Road, Five Ways, Birmingham B16 8SJ (0121-452 1144). One mile from university. Two nights at weekend, dinner, B&B £160 per person. Under-sixes pay for meals only. Seven to 14-year-olds £23 each for B&B only.

Attractions

☐ Cadbury World, Linden Road, Bournville, Birmingham (0121-451 4159). 10am-5.30pm. Check for availability of tickets. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays but open for weeks beginning Feb 12 and 19 from 9.30am.

☐ The Jewellery Quarter Discovery Centre, 77-79 Vyse Street, Birmingham (0121-554 3598). Mon-Fri 10am-4pm, Sat 11am-5pm. Closed Suns.

BRISTOL

THE CITY nestles between the Quantocks and the Mendips, and some areas have a village atmosphere. It still has grey stone Georgian houses, Brunel's spectacular Clifton suspension bridge and the brass pillars called the Nails outside the Exchange, which were used for checking cash payments (hence "cash on the nail"). Bristol's theme is maritime. As early as the 12th century, coal and wool were exported from here to France and Spain, while wine and sherry were imported in return. London theatre productions often make their debut at the Bristol Old Vic.

Short breaks

☐ Thornbury Castle, Thornbury, near Bristol, BS12 1HH (01454 281182). 15 miles from university. Special rate until end of February: double rooms £120 per night with continental breakfast, singles £75. No children under 12.

☐ Bristol Marriott, Lower Castle Street, Old Market, Bristol (0117 9294281). Special weekend rate for *Times* readers for two nights' dinner, B&B single room £128 (a saving of £15.80 on B&B rate alone — mention this article when booking). Double £158. Children under 18 free when sharing with parents, their food and drinks will be charged as taken.

Attractions

☐ Harveys Wine Museum, 12 Denmark Street, Bristol BS1 5DQ (0117 9275036). Open, if no private events taking place, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm.

☐ *SS Great Britain*, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, on display in dry dock. Great Western Dock, Gas Ferry Road, Bristol BS1 6TY (01179 260680). Daily 10am-4.30pm (5.30pm during BST).

COVENTRY

ONCE a beautiful ancient city, centre of the English cloth industry, Coventry — the home of Warwick University — has as its symbol the elephant, a sign of Christ's redemption of the human race and also of strength. But resilient though its people are, the local porous red sandstone is not, which is one reason why bomb damage during the Second World War was so extensive. Now even parts of Sir Basil Spence's great postwar cathedral are beginning to decay. Ignore local comment and go in. Not far away, on the university campus, is the Warwick Arts Centre, Britain's largest arts complex outside London.

Short breaks

☐ Brandon Hall Hotel, Brandon, Coventry CV8 3FW (01203 542571). Six miles from university. Weekend leisure breaks: dinner, B&B £110 per person. Children under five sharing parents' room free. Under-16s just pay for meals, or 75 per cent of the full rate for their own room.

☐ Brooklands Grange Hotel, Holyhead Road, Coventry CV5 8HX (01203 601601). Two miles from the university. Two-night weekend break B&B for two adults sharing double room £120. Children under 13 sharing parents' room £15 per night.

Attractions

☐ Museum of British Road Transport, St Agnes Lane, Hales Street, Coventry CV1 1PN (01203 832425). Open daily 10-5pm.

☐ Warwick Castle, Warwick CV34 4QU (01926 408000). Open every day 10-5pm.

DURHAM

"HALF church of God, half castle 'gainst the Scot" wrote Sir Walter Scott of Durham's Norman Romanesque cathedral, built around St Cuthbert's grave. The city is also known for its recalcitrant bishops — until 1836 prince bishops held sway, minting their own money and raising armies. Not all of Durham has escaped modern incursions, though. Locals lament the "hideous shop fronts" of some high street retailers. The area around the cathedral and castle, high on a wooded peninsula overlooking the river Wear, is a designated World Heritage Site.

Short breaks

☐ Redworth Hall Hotel and Country Club, Redworth, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham DL5 6NL (01388 772442). 16 miles from university. Subject to availability, weekend two-night breaks: dinner, B&B £149 per person sharing double room. Supplement for singles. Children under five sharing with adults, free B&B. Up to age 12, £10 B&B. Other food paid for as taken. Special 20 per cent deduction on room rates in February.

☐ The Royal County Hotel, Old Elvet, Durham City DH1 3JN (0191-386 6821). Close to university. Two-night breaks: dinner, B&B and one lunch from £105 per person. B&B free for under 14s sharing with parents, with extra meals charged as taken.

Attractions

☐ Durham Castle, Palace Green DH1 3RW. Open Mon, Wed and Sat 2-4.30pm unless there are functions (0191-374 3800).

☐ Oriental Museum, Elvet Hill DH1 3TH (0191-374 7911). Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-1pm and 2-5pm, Sat and Sun 2-5pm.

EXETER

SET in a shallow bowl surrounded by undulating countryside, this market town was targeted by German bombers during the Second World War. Even so, there are still some cobbled streets and timbered terraces, and a magnificent 11th to 14th-century cathedral, with an astronomical clock and outstanding pre-medieval manuscripts. Underground are remarkable 13th-century passages devised to bring spring water to the heart of the city. Now dry, they are open to visitors.

Short breaks

☐ The Lord Haldon Hotel, Dunchideock EX6 7YF (01392 832483). Four-and-a-half miles from university. Special rate for *Times* readers for two nights £70 (usually £149) B&B — mention this article when booking. Children under eight free, 8-14 half price.

☐ Royal Clarence Hotel, Cathedral Yard, EX1 1ND (01392 319955). University one mile. Weekend rates for two nights' dinner, B&B per person £104 (free bottle of wine per booking on production of this article). Under-16s sharing with parents pay only for food (breakfast £4, dinner £10).

Attractions

☐ Underground Passages, off High Street (near Boots) EX4 3PZ (01392 265887/265858). Open Sat 10am-5.30pm (closed at lunchtime), Tues-Fri 2-4.30pm.

☐ Exeter Maritime Museum, Haven Road, Exeter EX2 8DP (01392 58075). Open 10am-4pm daily.

LEEDS

CLINGING to the Yorkshire Dales, Leeds has street cafés and covered arcades which, along with its thriving theatres, Opera North and major music events, give it something of a continental feel. A huge redevelopment programme is under way, including a £42.5 million project to rehouse most of the Royal Armouries collection. The museum opens on March 30.

Short breaks

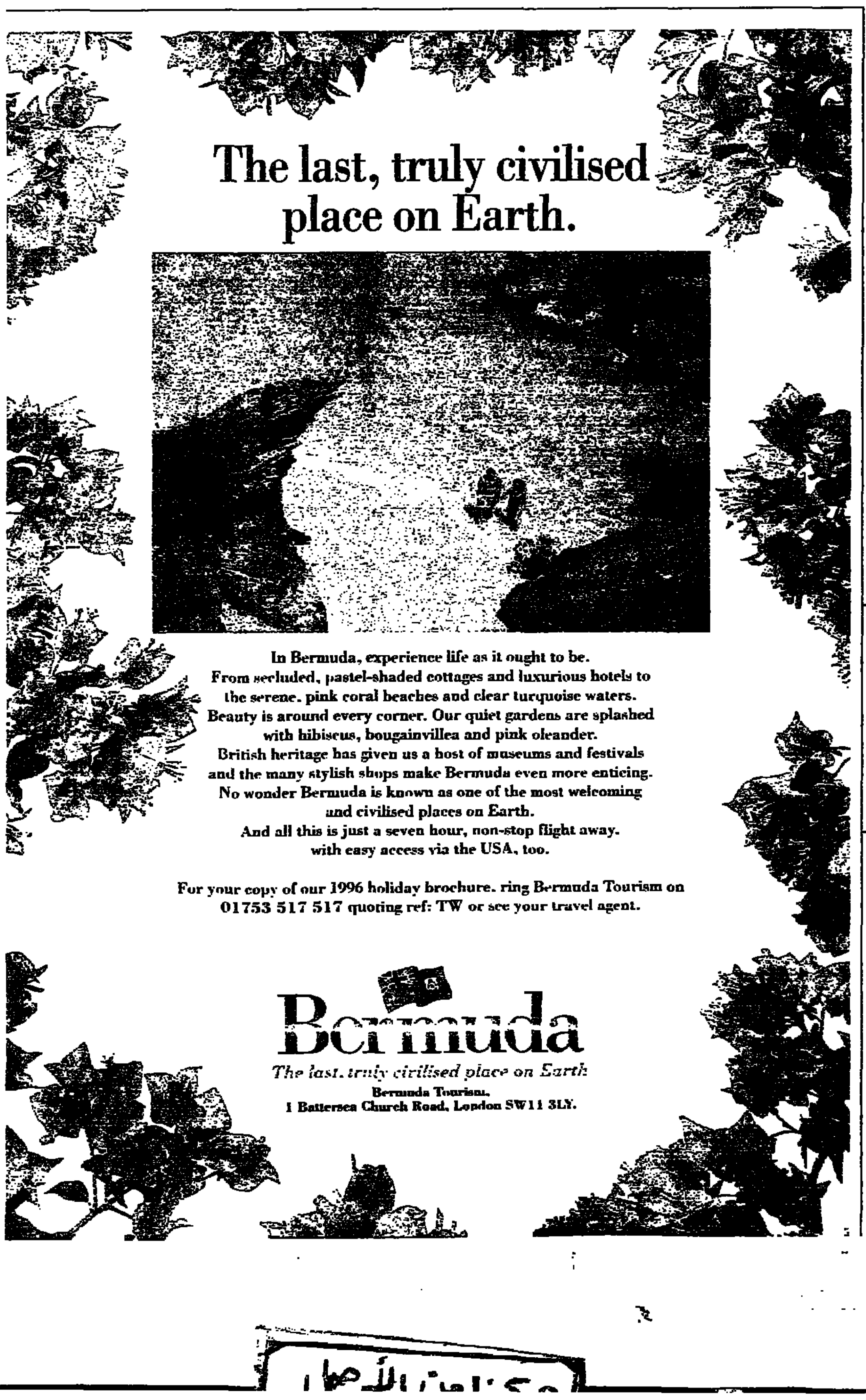
☐ 42 The Calls, Leeds LS2 7EW (0113 2440099). Two miles from university area. Two-night breaks available only over weekends. B&B sharing, £77.50 per person.

☐ Wood Hall Hotel, Trip Lane, nr Wetherby, West Yorkshire LS22 4JA (01937 587271). Nine miles from university. Two nights, from £135 per person in double room, dinner, B&B. Children under seven in parents' room, B&B free. Age seven to 14, £15, food charged as taken.

Attractions

☐ Tetley's Brewery Wharf (the English pub through the ages), The Waterfront, Leeds LS1 1QG (0113 2420666). Open Sat and Sun until Feb 5, then Thur-Sun 10.30am-5pm (last admission 3.30pm).

☐ Tropical World (all kinds of flora and fauna), Roundhay Park, Leeds (0113 2661850). Open 10am to 4pm daily.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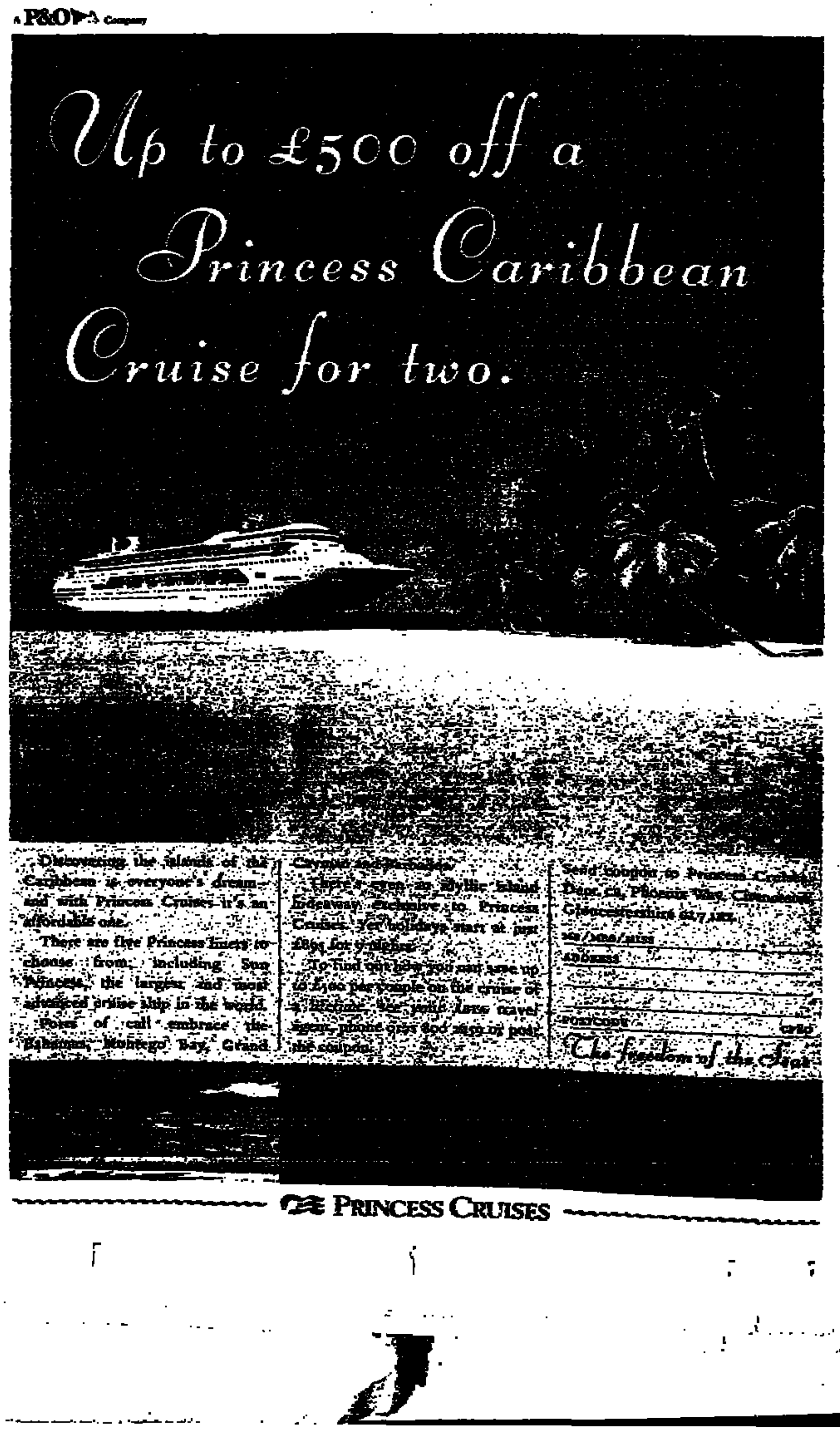
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The freedom of the Seas
PRINCESS CRUISES

SKIING: Why it makes sense to hire an approved mountain guide; plus last-minute bargain breaks

Follow the leader to the best of the snow

The high-season crowds on piste make off piste powder even more inviting. But after forking out for a lift pass and holiday package, many British skiers consider guides to be an unnecessary expense.

Wrong. This is one of the most dangerous seasons for snow security in years. And even early-intermediate skiers are now demanding access to erstwhile black runs, many now reclassified as "itineraries" or "off piste" by resorts unwilling to accept patrol responsibilities. The mountain guide has replaced the ski teacher as an essential holiday "extra". A day's off piste skiing with a guide should cost around £100-£150 for a group of three to four people.

Tour operators have been quick to spot the trend. Specialised weeks dedicated to teaching beginners how to ski in deep snow now lead on to trans-alpine ski safaris. The future is wide body skis, *inevitably dubbed* "fat boys".

I have seen Verbier and Val d'Isère tracked out in hours by skiers on fat boys who wouldn't go near a couloir on their more difficult to negotiate normal skis. With 150 skiers killed in avalanches every winter, certified mountain guides make sense.

Skiing with a guide adds immeasurable value to a holiday. In Andermatt, Alex Clapasson took me down narrow chutes stuffed with snow at a time when most of the mountain was sheet ice and crust. Over in Val d'Isère Patrick Zimmer led us past cement-thick snow around the Espace Killy to sheltered areas of loose powder.

Skiing the best snow on the mountain is enhanced by *knowing just how indifferent* the snow is in other sectors. Skiing powder down a "hidden" valley while your friends are standing in a lift queue on piste is the ultimate convincer.

There are few personal relationships more important than guide and client. Swiss guides, in Zermatt in particular, have a reputation for being haughty. I would ski any time with *Jean-Marie* Olianti (00 33 5053 0088) of the Compagnie des Guides in Chamonix; Ueli Frei (00 41 3653 1352) in Grindelwald; Alex Clapasson (00 41 4467 770) in Andermatt; Patrick Zimmer (00 33 7906 1480) in Val d'Isère; Roland Stieger (00 33 5054 4353) in Chamonix or Hans Solmssen (00 41 2631 7683) in Verbier.

Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) has the best off piste guides and the best intro programmes I've experienced. Mountain Reality (00 41 4467 770) has the most ambitious range of ski safaris, skiing from hotel to hotel across Italy and Switzerland. Loyal fans of guide John Hogg, now back in Canada, should note that Mountain Reality now handles all Hogg's safari routes. Both The Ski Company (0171-730 9600) and Collineige (01276 242662) have holidays where local guides accompany skiers on a weekly basis.

DOUG SAGER

DOUG SAGER

Ueli Frei, a guide in Grindelwald, takes a break after a gruelling morning run with the author

Great white holiday deals

THERE is still time to get a good discount on your skiing holiday if you book now before the school half-term rush in mid-February.

Some of the best deals are in the big resorts in France and Switzerland. At the time of going to press the following deals are on offer: Mark Warner *(0171-393 3131) has a* week in its chalet hotel in Verbier for £299, £216 off the brochure price. Bladon Lines (0181-780 8800) quoted £289 for a week in Tignes, a discount of £170. Snowtime (0171-433 3336) had space in its chalet hotel in Méribel for £299, less than half the brochure price. Chalet holidays typically include flights and coach transfers, breakfast, *afternoon* tea, dinner and ski guiding.

For rock-bottom prices try Crystal (0181-399 5144), which quoted self-catering apartments at £199 per person, including flight and transfers, and catered chalet holidays at £259 in France. That's as long you don't mind where you go; guaranteeing the resort of your choice costs an extra £40.

Upmarket, Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202) quoted £399 *(down from £565)* for a luxury chalet in Zermatt, including tea or coffee in bed, canapés before dinner, champagne and a picnic on the slopes. Simply Ski (0181-742 2541) is offering the luxury Chalet Norjeanne in Verbier at £389, almost half price. If time is limited, Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) could do a weekend at Hotel Hirschen in Grindel*wald half board for £449, from* February 1-4, travelling Swissair with minibus transfers.

Italy and North America have been selling well, so bargains there are few and far between. If you haven't got time to call around, a specialist ski travel agency such as Ski Solutions (0171-602 9900) can do the legwork.

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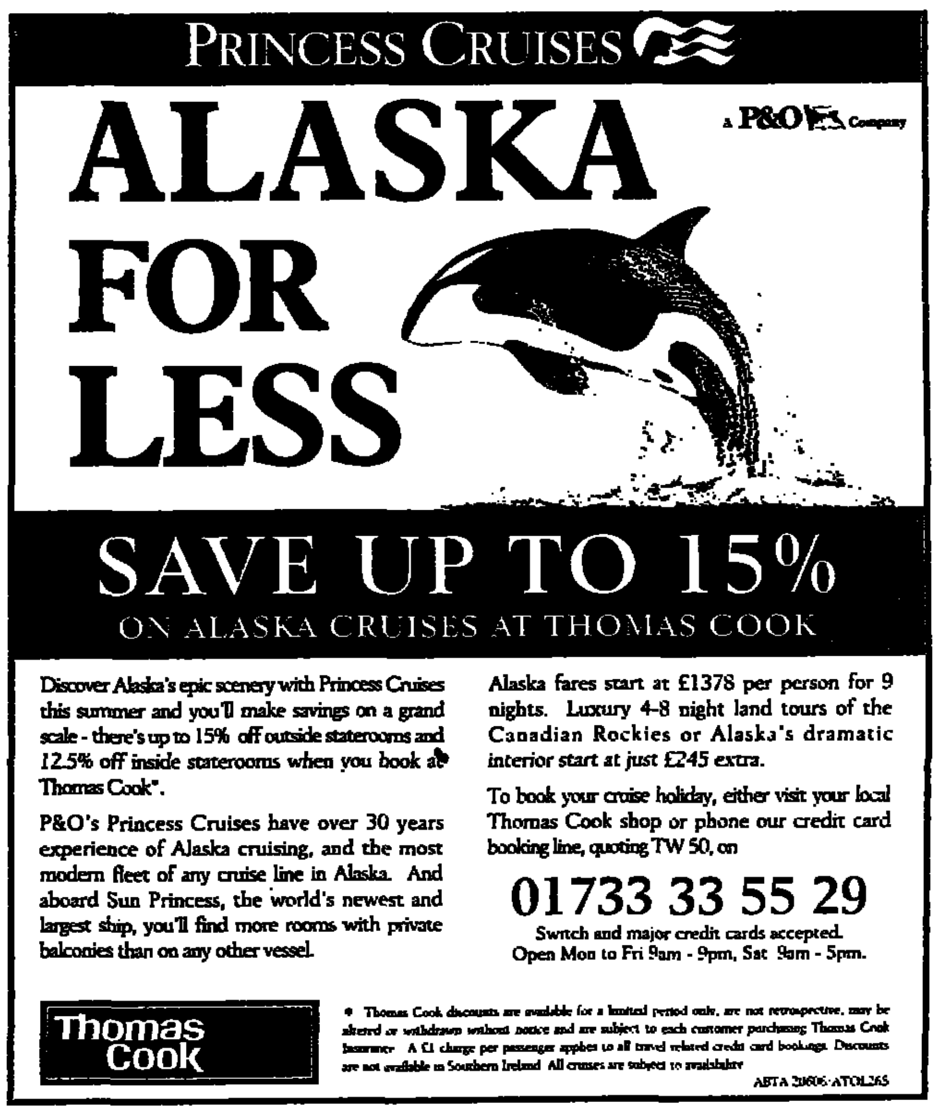

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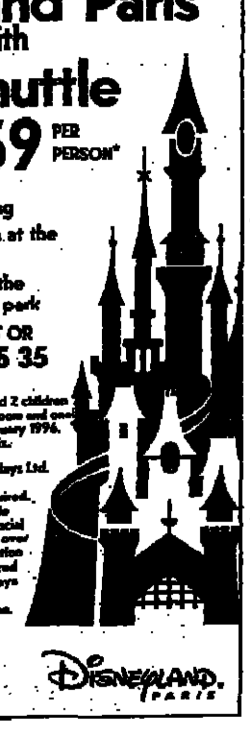

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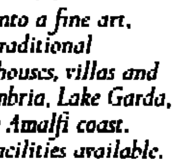

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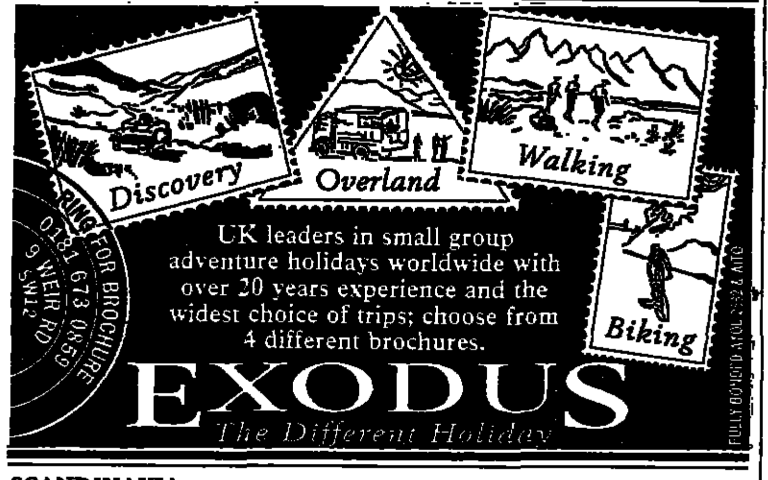
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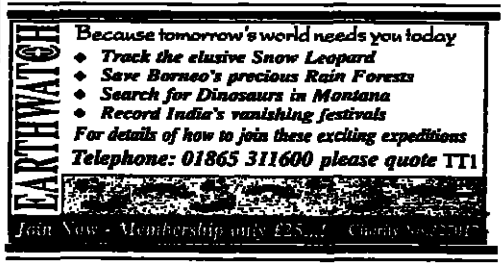
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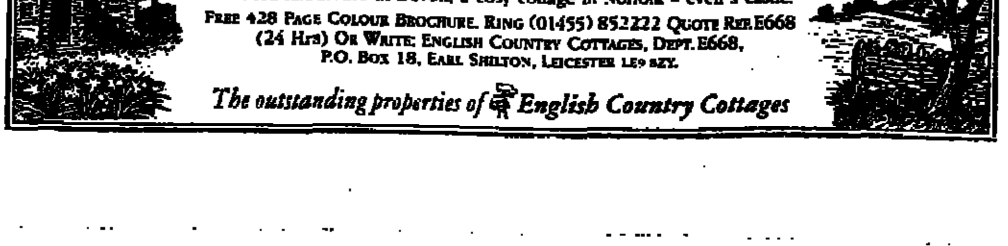
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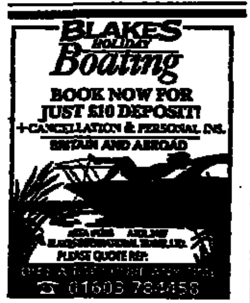
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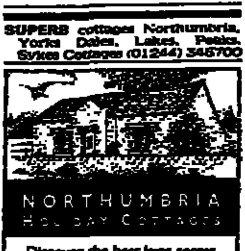
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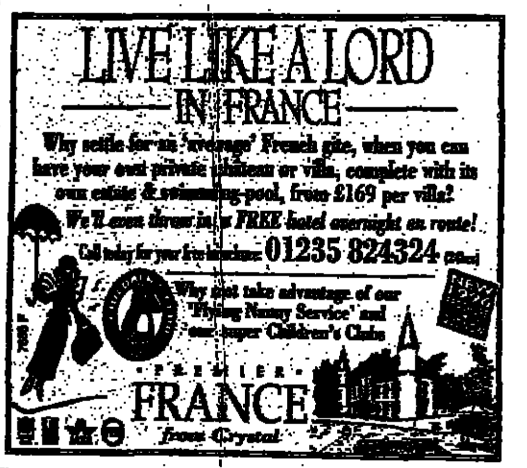
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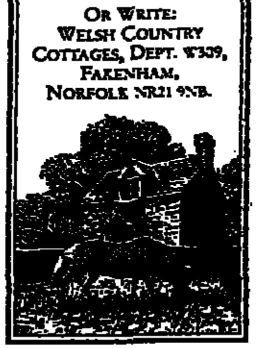
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GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

I AM often asked what is the best way to improve once the elementary stage has been passed in chess. One of the best methods is to pick a hero and study that player's games in some depth — or even write an article or book about that person! The Soviet expert Alexander Kotov freely admitted that his study of Alekhine, leading to a two-volume work on his hero's games, had been instrumental in transforming him from a first-category player into a grandmaster. Similarly, Harry Golombek, *The Times* chess correspondent from 1945 to 1985, honed his skills by a deep study of both Capablanca and Reti. Again in Golombek's case this ultimately led to chess biographies of both players, with deep comments on their outstanding masterpieces. In my own case, in 1973, I conducted an in-depth study of the games of Aron Nimzowitsch, and I secured my first grandmaster result the following year.

If you are an attacking player, choose Alekhine, Kasparov or Tal to emulate. If more strategically inclined, go for Botvinnik, Capablanca or Petrosian. Choosing a living player, such as Karpov (a noted strategist) brings the advantage of a stream of fresh games to inspire you.

The American master Eric Schiller has recently started to follow the games of that great attacker Rudolf Spielmann, and the effect on his style and strength has been extraordinary. Here is a sample, played under the influence of Spielmann.

W: E Schiller; B: M Arne
Foster City, 1995
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6
5 Qe2 b5 6 Bb3 Bc5
7 c3 0-0 8 0-0 d6
9 h3

This is probably not necessary as Black's bishop is heading for b7, but White wanted to make sure that it was kept away from g4, where the pin on the knight would weaken White's control of d4.

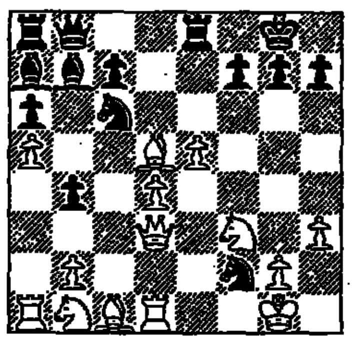
9 ... Bb7 10 Rd1 Re8
11 a4 b4 12 a5 Qb8

In retrospect, this is an error. The simple 12 ... Qe7 would have given Black an equal game.

13 d4 exd4 14 cxd4 Ba7. 14 ...

Rxe4 was playable, but White felt that he would then have sufficient compensation after 15 Be3 Ba7 16 Qd3. However, after 14 ... Rxe4 White must avoid 15 Bxf7+ Kxf7 16 Ng5+ Kf8 17 Nxe4 Nxd4 when Black has the advantage.

15 e5 d5 16 Qd3 Ne4
17 Bxd5 Nxf2



The idea is that if White captures the knight the pin on d4 allows captures at e5 with counterplay. For example 18 Kxf2 Nxe5 19 Nxe5 Bxd5 20 Be3 c5, when Black is a piece down but White's position is unstable. Instead, White launches a sacrificial attack, one virtually impervious to precise analysis, quite in the style of Spielmann himself.

18 Bxf7+ Kxf7 19 Qf5+ Kg8
20 Ng5 Nxd1 21 Qxh7+ Kf8
22 Qh8+ Ke7 23 Qxg7+ Kd8
24 Nf7+ Kd7

The position looks very good for White, but it is not so simple.

25 e6+ Kxe6 26 Ng5+ Kd5
27 Qd7+ Kc4 28 Nd2+ Kd3
29 Qf5+ Kxd4

White now closes the mating net with a problem-like move: **30 Ngf3+ Ke3 31 Kf1.**

Black resigns.

A quiet king move ends the spectacular combination.

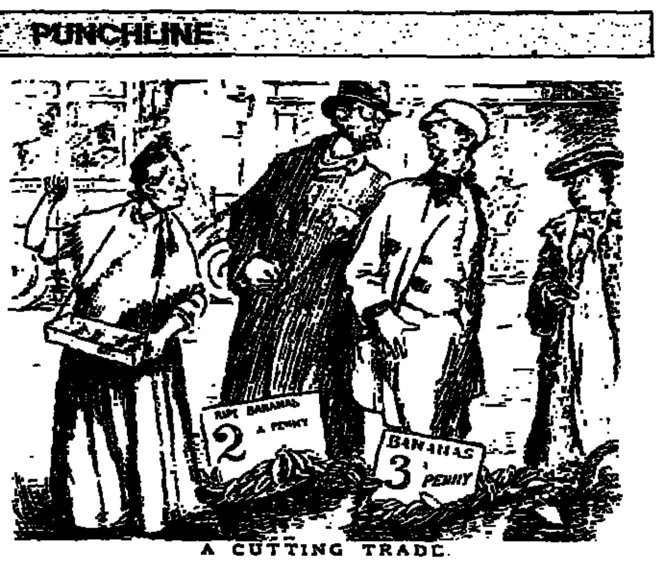
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right). The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The caption will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Cartoon caption (93), Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

The editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, January 31.



A CUTTING TRADE.

"NOW THEN, MISTER THREE-A-PENNY, WOT D'YER MEAN BY KNOCKIN' THE BOTTOM OUT OF THE BLOOMIN' MARKET?"

The advent of Dial-A-Pizza is greeted with some scepticism

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Frank Waters of London

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TEICHOPSIA
a. An autumn rock plant
b. Second sight
c. Preliminary headache

EMPEROR'S CHAMBERMAID
a. A fabled Amazonian team
b. The Austrian Imperial Guard
c. The 14th King's Hussars

COCKPIT OF EUROPE
a. Belgium
b. The New Testament
c. Serbia

WHITE SAMITE
a. A dedicated Crusader
b. A heavy silk
c. An American rebel

Answers on page 19

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THIS was the second question of the Christmas quiz. You are the declarer in Six Diamonds.

♠Q7
♥8752
♦KJ8
♣K983

N
W E
S

♠AKJ5
♥6
♦AQ1094
♣AJ5

West leads the ace and king of hearts. How do you play after ruffing the second heart?

The main line, as the chess players call it, is an example of a dummy-reversal. That is a technique in which the declarer takes ruffs in the long trump hand and draws trumps in the short hand. What South aims to do here is to use dummy's three entries (a diamond and the two black honours) to ruff two more hearts in his hand, and then draw trumps with dummy's KJ8 of diamonds. That way he will make three heart ruffs in hand, three diamonds in dummy, four tricks in spades and two club tricks. The precaution he must take is to play ace of diamonds and a diamond to the king at tricks three and four — if someone shows out on the second diamond, the dummy reversal is no longer available. I awarded eight points for getting this far.

How to continue when the trumps are 4-1 depends on who shows out. If it is West, declarer simply draws the rest of the trumps and plays a club to the king and finesses the jack on the way back. Two points for getting this right.

If East has the singleton trump, South can try the effect of playing four rounds of spades before drawing the last trumps. If West has four spades along with four trumps this will enable South to throw two clubs from dummy, and then take a club ruff. And if West ruffs the third or fourth spade, declarer overruffs and reverts to playing East for the queen of clubs. Although this line would fail if West has a singleton in either black suit, I think it is better than taking the club finesse. Five points for the imaginative approach.

This is the East-West lay-out on which it would succeed:

♠10964	N	♠832
♥AK	W E	♥QJ10943
♦7653		♦2
♣Q107	S	♣642

Question 3 was on quotations: five marks for each correct one. All the quotes were from colourful characters and great players, now dead. The player who instructed his protegé that "there's only one player in this partnership who can lead trump, and it ain't you kid" was Lew Mathe. Rixi Marcus famously used to advise her partners in individual tournaments: "No signals. I will know your distribution better than you do." Giorgio Belladonna said "Grazie" when Garozzo (still with us of course) put down the dummy, forgetting the code that he was required to say "thank you" if the bidding sequence had gone off without a hitch.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

"TWO major films based on the Frederick and Rosemary West saga vie for the limelight," predicts Martin Leigh of Twyford, Hampshire. *Fred and Rosie*, directed by Quentin Tarantino and starring Harvey Keitel as Frederick, Kathy Bates as Rosemary and Tommy Lee Jones as the detective seems to have the edge over a rival production, *Gone West*, starring Sylvester Stallone, Goldie Hawn and (surprise, surprise) Tommy Lee Jones as the detective.

Martin, an entrant in Cyberspace Twenty asking for predictions for 1996, also has a forecast on the future of the National Lottery. "It becomes a National Disgrace after a series of scandals. A major newspaper prints documents, secretly obtained, which claim that several multimillion pound wins have gone to families and friends of Camelot directors. A jackpot winner, thought to be a foreign syndicate, turns out to be the Princess of Wales, who sent her maid to collect the prize. Two children's hospitals close due to government spending cuts while a total of £100 million is awarded to yet another opera company. Research shows that the average age of lottery millionaires is 86 and the average number of friends six months after winning is 0.7. The largest ever rollover jackpot (£126 million) is finally won by a Texan syndicate headed by Mark Thatcher."

The lottery also featured in Alan Stillwell's unlikely prediction for October this year. "The Conservatives, led by Baroness Thatcher, win a landslide victory in the election, after promising to divert all proceeds from future National Lotteries to local councils, thereby doing away with the need for council tax."

A look at more entries next week, as well as the names of the winners.

Viennese whirl: classical music for children

Now, roll over Beethoven and prepare to be impressed with the aid of an upturned dinner plate. BMG's **Quest For Fame** will have you playing virtuoso guitar parts in rock and blues bands in a battle to claw your way to the top of rock. The title comes on CD-Rom and has a Virtual Pick, a bulky plastic plectrum which plugs into the printer port. You need to find something hard to strum against, hence the role of the humble crockery — it works perfectly.

You start by practising on the amp in your bedroom, strumming along to a choice of three songs, each with a visual guide.

If you get the hang of strumming mostly in the right places, the right notes and chord changes can be heard and your career will take off with lightning speed. Next you practise in a garage with your band and then the slimy old agent arrives with news of your first gig at a rundown roadside bar. If you play well and the gig goes well you progress up the ladder towards the ultimate goal — to play alongside the members of Aerosmith at a sell-out concert.

The sound of Quest For Fame is impressive, and the lively animation sequences are detailed and effective. This is a social game, to be played when possible in the company of others. It isn't one for playing late at night if you have neighbours up to a mile away as simply listening on headphones is no substitute for real din. Besides, even using the Virtual Pick can get remarkably loud.

Though the emphasis of the title is on heavy rock, the jazz styles of the funky blues tunes are infinitely more comfortable. One of many nice touches, if during your early performances you play badly you may end up at a sleazy lounge knocking out easy listening tunes with a resident house band. It's as near as the action gets to the Mike Flowers Pops, which is a pity.

Another music title from BMG is **Beethoven Lives Upstairs**, an interactive introduction to music for children. Set in 19th-century Vienna, in rooms immediately beneath eccentric composer host Ludwig van, users explore aspects of music including tone, rhythm, pitch, expression and composition. You can create your own compositions and paint musical pictures.

Children are taught how to read music and encouraged to keep journals. These can include written notes, artwork and music. As you might expect, the musical backdrop to the CD-Rom includes selections from Beethoven's 6th and 9th Symphonies and the Moonlight and Pathetique Sonatas.

"All music is folk music, I ain't never heard no horse sing a song." Louis Armstrong (1971).

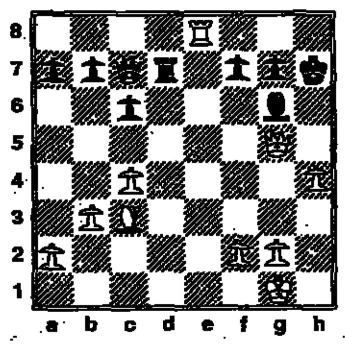
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game *Heinicke - Wustenhofer*, Germany 1926. Black is threatening to launch a counter-attack against the white king with rook check on the back rank. Nevertheless, it is White to move and he made the most of this. Can you see how? White to move.

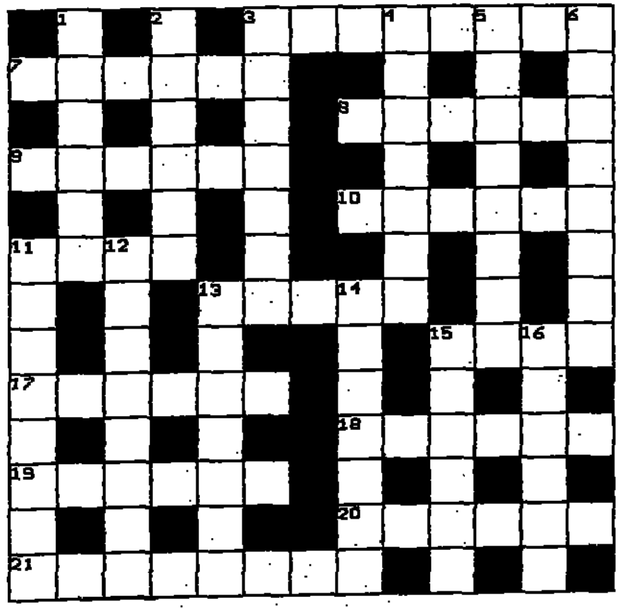
Send your answers on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qf6

Last week's winners: D Timbrell, Chingford, Essex; C Kennedy, Canterbury, Kent; D L Shapiro, Harrow, Middlesex.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 689

ACROSS
3 Fighting ship; frigate bird (3-2-3)
7 Look for food (6)
8 Trickily escapes (6)
9 *Merchant of Venice* heroine (6)
10 Italian unification leader (6)
11 Indecent (4)
13 Sneering and derogatory (5)
15 Little biting insect (4)
17 Seasoned stew (6)
18 Protective end of shoe (6)
19 Antonin —, *New World* symphonist (6)
20 Eat daintily (6)
21 Old hilltop track (8)

DOWN
1 Glum (6)
2 Fruitlessly used (6)
3 Dark skin pigment (7)
4 Get round; get rid of (7)
5 Extensive (spaces); undecided (contest) (4,4)
6 Place limits on (8)
11 A dog; part of Canada (8)
12 Josiah —, potter (8)
13 Meat/bread/seasoning in a tube (7)
14 Fate (7)
15 Passes; takes as authority (4,2)
16 Suitable for crops (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 688
ACROSS: 1 Tobago 4 RSVP 9 Chime 10 Utrillo 11 Titania 12 Canoe 13 Aphrodisiac 17 Aural 19 Respect 22 Capsule 23 Drier 24 Ludo 25 Jekyll
DOWN: 1 Tacit 2 Built up 3 Glean 5 Salon 6 Proper 7 Cut and dried 8 Fracas 14 Roll up 15 Amenity 16 Marcel 18 Rapid 20 Sidle 21 Tyrol (Tirol)

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3342: 2, 10, 8, 4, 0, 0, 12, 5, 13 by Aldhelm

FOUR football teams — A, B, C and D — formed a league and each team played each of the others at home and away. Each team was awarded two points for a win, one point for a draw and none for a loss. It so happened that no fewer than two goals and no more than four goals per match were scored and that no two matches finished with the same score (for the purposes of this puzzle, 2-0 and 0-2, say, are treated as different scores). In the final table, if two teams shared the same number of points, the one with the greater goal difference (goals for minus goals against) finished higher up the table. If two teams had the same number of points and their goal difference was the same, the team which scored the greater number of goals finished higher. At the end of the season, A were the champions, with B second, C third and D fourth.

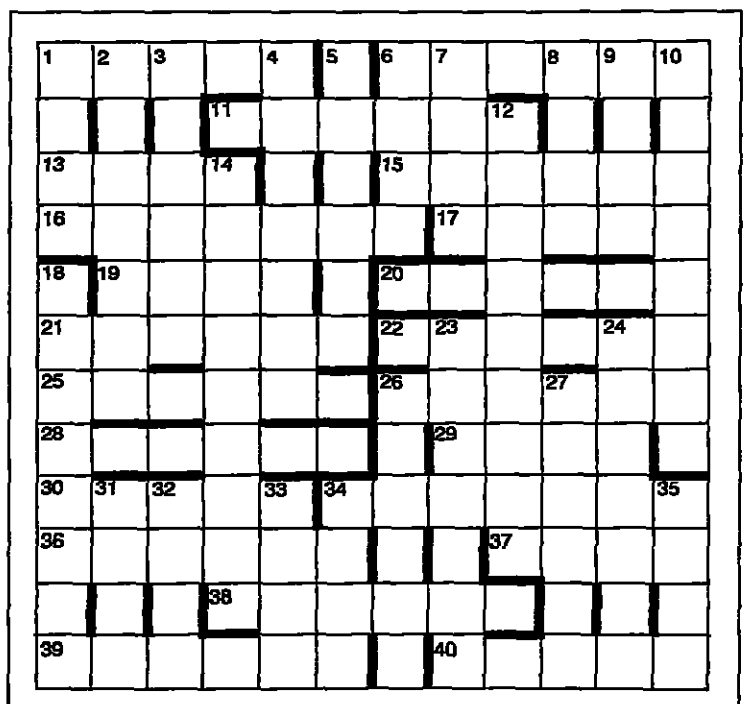
Eight match clues, which are in italics, enable the solver to work out the scores in eight of the matches and calculate the final league table. In each of these clues, the home team's score is given by the number of successive letters omitted from a word in the definition part of the clue and the away team's score by the number of successive letters to be omitted from the answer before entry into the grid. The bracketed letters after each club refer to the particular match involved. Of course, if the home team fails to score, the definition part of the clue would be unaltered and, if the away team fails to score, the full answer would be entered into the grid.

The four team answers can be worked out once the final league table is complete (P = matches played, W = matches won, D = matches drawn, L = matches lost, F = goals for, A = goals against, Pts = total points). The numbers to be inserted in the 24 empty boxes in the table are to be replaced by letters using a simple substitution code, thus giving each team a six-letter word reading across its row. These words appear where indicated in the diagram. All other clues and answers are normal. *Chambers* 1993 is recommended and solvers are required to enter the decoded title of the puzzle under the grid.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
A	6						
B	6						
C	6						
D	6						

Across
1 Worthless person with a bottom of a sleeve missing its top (5)
6 Remitting business traveller's document inside egg container (6)
11 After run in the morning, walker hiked (6)
13 Proceedings before food are behind time (4)
15 *America's bumper state (B v C)*
16 Cocktail with hint of lime on the surface (7)
17 Conclude degree's free from error (5)
19 *Arrive behind sporting venue (A v D)*
20 Team C (6)
21 Author's mark of distinction lampooning leader of America (6)
22 Harmless black motor reversed without starting (6)
25 Dangerous drug's possibly gone to the head (6)
26 Put on a coat initially for spring day (6)
28 Team D (6)
29 *Hick: wild hit at this could get the captain out (C v A)*
30 Huge specimen's getting skinned (5)
34 Ducks on pool almost take one fish (5)
36 *Finance chief half-heartedly set minds at rest when apprehended by trustee (D v C)*
37 Drink a small amount for starters (4)
38 Ward off excellent period of bowling (6)
39 Cell without a nucleus yet without content is shrouded in secret message (6)
40 Pot with penny staked (5)

Down
1 *Run won with extreme pain (A v C)*
2 Make an attribution in case disturbed wife is seen (7)
3 Adjusted nut on one end of fiddle put out of pitch (6)
4 *Fraudster's turned out OK on the outside (7)*
5 Team B (6)
6 Stone spangle of old's lacking colour practically (4)
7 *Vital element in TV coverage? (4)*
8 Sell used odd bits for a large amount (4)
9 *In some places he has smaller device to fix (D v B)*
10 Without it, sacred death overcomes accepted beliefs (8)
12 Celebration can include little brother (9)
14 Special changes advanced to delete verse (9)
18 Orderly embrace for alien's superficial (8)
23 Plough large enclosed part of field soon (7)
24 Yarn apparently is covered in embarrassment (7)
26 Team A (6)
27 Master's catty with college's sixth form (6)
31 *Conservative insiders upset group of wets (B v D)*
32 Principals of teaching establishments should try to be examiners (4)
33 Chopping tails of three blind mice can distress (4)
34 Fish previously moving top to bottom, almost (4)
35 *Not taking diverted road for fen (C v B)*



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LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3342

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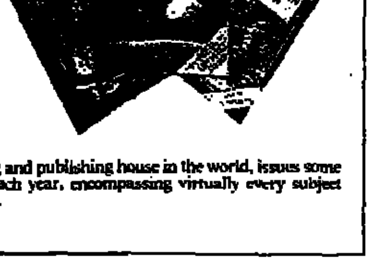

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Solution to No 3339: Endangered Species by Machiavelli

Thematic Lights were:
Across
1 P(HOB)IA
4 BREAK(WAT)ER
9 LAC (QUEY)
12 I(MARE)T
14 (TEG)MINA
19 STER(NAG)E
20 (AI)LING
29 COM(BAT)ING
30 (ZO)NATION
38 RE(VEAL)ED
39 MALAR(KY)
43 PICA(DOR)S
48 KA(YAK)
49 (PIG)EON
51 W(ELK)IN

Down
1 PI(GNU)T
4 BRIE(FLY)
6 ADVENT(URE)
10 A(XEMA)N
11 C(OLM)AR
18 CRACKER(JACK)
36 P(LANT)AINS
40 NIT(RAT)E
42 SE(CUR)E
44 SAN(SEI)

The winners are C.J. and J.M. Lowe of Manchester. The runners-up are Edward Wills of Putney, London, and J. Scott-Wilson of Keston, Kent.

P	I	A	B	R	E	A	K	E	R	L	A	C
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T	A	B	I	D	S	V	I	D	E	M	U	R
C	S	O	E	S	T	E	R	E	L	I	N	G
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A	C	A	R	I	R	T	K	I	N	G	L	E
C	O	M	I	N	G	I	N	A	T	I	O	N
K	R	E	E	S	E	P	S	L	A	S	S	O
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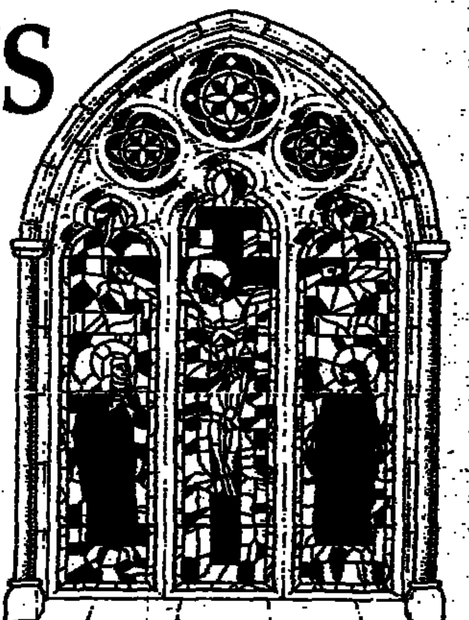

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The restored beast that is going for a beauty of a price

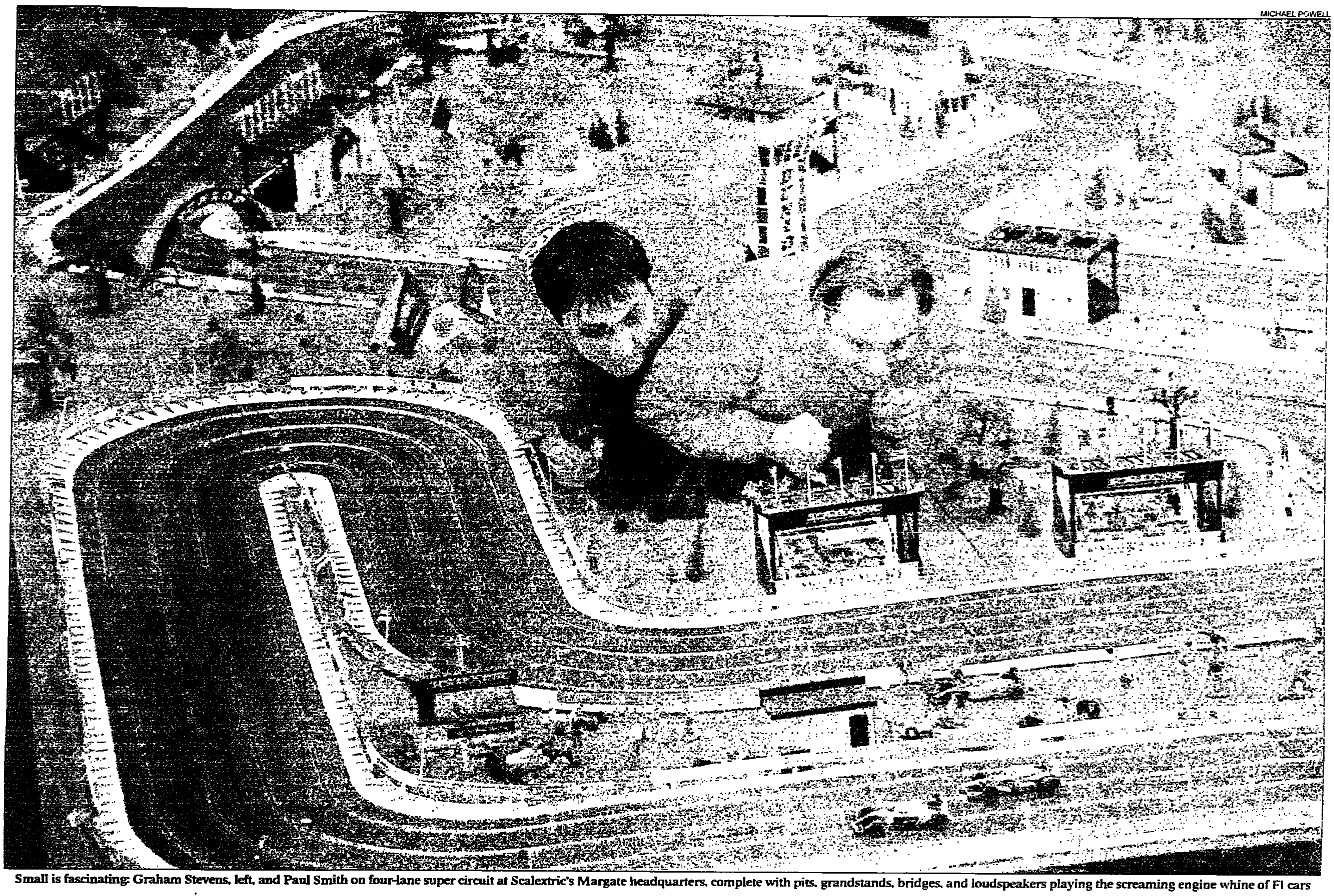
Page 3

CAR 96

Century of the signs that paint the road to hell

Page 9

SATURDAY JANUARY 27 1996



MICHAEL POWELL

Small is fascinating: Graham Stevens, left, and Paul Smith on four-lane super circuit at Scalextric's Margate headquarters, complete with pits, grandstands, bridges, and loudspeakers playing the screaming engine whine of F1 cars

A different scale of motoring delights

Before their infant sons can even say the word, fathers dash out to buy them their first cars.

Kevin Eason on the enduring joys of Scalextric

Junior is barely out of nappies when the feverish search through the toy shop starts. The buggy is neatly parked against a stack of shelves with row-on-row of boxes decorated with chequered flags and screaming Formula One cars while the investigation is carried out.

At this stage, it is difficult to spot the child. Actually, Junior is the one who cannot even say "car", let alone operate one, while the real child is the taller one rifling through the boxes. Never mind early learning toys and pop-up books, what Junior really needs apparently is a Scalextric . . . yet he barely gets to lay his dumpy little fist on the controls in case he breaks anything.

I confess: I was that man. My son was still learning to walk when his first Scalextric appeared under the Christmas tree, and he had to beat me off for the privilege of unwrapping it. Then he stood by while it was constructed and took it all in his stride when Dad punched the air after thrashing him in a ten-lap sprint. There are boxes of track and cars, from Ford Escort rally cars to Formula One machines, in our garage just waiting for a new circuit to be constructed by an eager father with delusions of being team manager for Renault Williams at Silverstone.

But there is no need to send for medical help, for I am not alone. Scalextric is the ultimate toy for boys who never grew up. There cannot be a male under the age of 45 in this country who at some time has not owned one, and even the mention of one of the world's most famous brand names turns eyes misty and leads to confessions that somehow that set bought years ago was never thrown away.

Even the countenance of Mike Powell, a hardened professional who took these pictures for *Car 96*, took on a faraway look as he reflected on his Grand Prix Scalextric set, featuring his favourite Jaguar XJ220, that roars around his London flat.

Simon Kohler, marketing manager at Hornby Hobbies which makes Scalextric, listened patiently to the wistful reminiscences of Messrs Powell and Eason and their victories on the small scale track without the least surprise. At the Toy Fair this weekend at London's Olympia, he will meet dozens of men who were infected at an early age with enthusiasm for the 1:32nd scale cars.

"There is a tremendous number of thirtysomethings who had them as children or buy them now for their own children," he says. "We find sets just don't get thrown away. They might end up in the attic or garage, but they are nearly always kept somewhere because affection never seems to wear off.

"Scalextric really took off in the Sixties, though, and we find now that the first people who owned it are coming back as fathers and buying sets for their children. Of course, that is a great excuse to play, never mind whether the kids want a Scalextric or not."

That is why Renault has joined up with Scalextric to give wannabe Damon Hills and Michael Schumachers the chance to indulge their fantasies and take part in their own world championship. Hundreds of Renault owners are being invited to their local dealers to hurl a scale model Renault Williams around the familiar rubberised track for glory, and — for the very best — a place in a world final in Trinidad.

Not exactly one of the better known grand prix venues, you might think, but there is a reason for choosing the Caribbean island, apart from the sun and sand. Trinidad is the home of the greatest concentration of Scalextric enthusiasts in the world, where the small scale racing is second only to cricket as a sporting pursuit. Trinidadian children were introduced to the table-top track in much the same way as table tennis was the amusement for a generation in youth clubs here — except that in Britain, we outgrew capuccinos, Cliff Richard and paddle bats, while in Trinidad Scalextric stuck, creating an island of addicts.

The addiction started in the days when the cars racing along the electrified steel grooves were copies of F1 machines like Cooper, Ferrari and Lotus and the heroic drivers were Jim Clark, Graham Hill and Mike Hawthorn.

We all have a Mr B. Francis to thank for our addiction. He started a company in 1952 called Minimodels, mak-

Continued overleaf

LIKE THE REAL THING, IT'S DONE WITH COMPUTERS

Jamie Buchanan, designer for lounge motor racing

THE eerie computer shape was a Vauxhall Calibra twisting and turning through a full circle to show each curve and detail of its aerodynamic body.

But when this car leaves the electronic drawing board, it will be small enough to fit inside a jacket pocket. Although Scalextric cars are toys, they are designed with the same attention to detail as the real thing.

In scale, they race around the track at speeds equivalent to 200mph, tear through corners and chicanes and stop on a sixpence. They also have to cope with stresses and strains that real cars do not — such as when Junior loses control and his car tumbles off the track and the dining room table, plunging to the floor.

Until recently, the process was traditional model-making, with drawings translated to patterns, then to clay or wooden models before moulds could be made for plastic prototypes, the factory tooled up and the cars produced, 18 months from concept to completion.

Now Scalextric designs on computer software used by manufacturers of full-size cars, completing the design process in a month. Jamie Buchanan is one of the designers who "draws" cars on computer screen, examining their contours and areas that Scalextric has to strengthen against the rigours of lounge racing.

Scalextric cars tend to sit higher than road cars to deal with banked corners, have wider wheel arches and thicker bumpers to withstand those prangs against the dining table legs.

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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

Benedict Nightingale

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Read Wilde's play, and you might conclude it is a melodrama with epigrams artificially inserted in the creakier gaps. But Peter Hall's production is a major piece of dramatic reclamation. With Anna Carteret, David Yelland, Penny Downie and (especially) a Wilde-looking Martin Shaw seamlessly in control, there is humanity, humour and timely truth in the tale of the rising politician threatened both by the appearance of the indiscreet letter he wrote in his youth and by his wife's unforgiving morality.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 8800). Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.45pm; matinées: Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Why has a revival of a neatly carpentered thriller written 50 years ago and earnestly preaching socialism won almost every award in London, as well as several in New York? Why bother at all with J.B. Priestley's tale of a respectable family's destruction of an innocent girl? Because Stephen Daldry's superbly imaginative direction and Ian MacNeil's wonderfully evocative set transform it into a grand, gripping denunciation of the 20th-century's deadlier sins.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (0171-494 5025). Evenings: Mon to Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; matinées: Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

Clive Davis

JACKY TERRASSON His eponymous Blue Note debut found a place in many of the shortlists as the critics looked back on the outstanding records of 1995. A puckish virtuoso of Franco-American origin, he has the potential to become the most versatile and accomplished pianist since the controversial Keith Jarrett. Muscular yet poetic, he can slip into a funky backbeat on *I Love Paris*, sprinkle Debussy-esque harmonies on *Hommage à Lili Boulanger* and leap into quicksilver Bud Powell mode at a moment's notice.
Jazz Café, Parkway, London NW1 (0171-344 0044), Thur Feb 1, 9pm.

BARBARA COOK/STEVE ROSS Barbara Cook's waltz through Broadway and Tin Pan Alley history is currently one of London's best kept secrets. Do not miss her final week. Wally Harper's piano arrangements are as sumptuous as a full orchestra's, and Cook's subtle vocals lift even the more obscure numbers firmly into the major league. A favourite at the Algonquin and other Manhattan salons, the Cole Porter devotee Steve Ross comes to town with another bulging sack of vintage songs. He will be followed on-stage, later in the evening, by Patricia Hodge and Sheridan Morley, presenting their tribute to Gertrude Lawrence and Jack Buchanan.
Cook: **Café Royal**, Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090), tonight, Tues to Sat 3, 9.15pm.
Ross: **Pizza on the Park**, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-235 5273). Mon 29 to Sat 24 Feb, 9.15pm; (Hodge and Morley, 11.15pm).

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

SAMSON ET DALILA There is a slightly improvised feel to the Royal Opera's new year programme, with the management bobbing and weaving through cancelled productions and changes of cast, but the unplanned revival of Saint-Saëns's grand biblical opera is all gain: Sidney Nolan's sumptuously colourful decor, Elijah Moshinsky's grown-up production and David Bintley's rather saucy Bacchanale — not to mention "Softly awakes my heart" — all add up to a thumping good evening out. The Greek mezzo Markella Hatzianou sings the temptress, José Cura is the prophet, and the expert Jacques Delacôte conducts.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Tues 30, Fri 2, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

DONALD COOPER

Humanity and humour: Penny Downie, Dulcie Gray and Anna Carteret star in Peter Hall's timely production of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*

THE MAGIC FLUTE There are few more uplifting experiences than a really good performance of Mozart's fairy-tale morality, and the English National Opera fields a strong team for the latest revival of Nicholas Hytner's fine staging. Alexander Sander's stylish conducting is the perfect springboard for exceptional singing from Janice Watson and Ian Bostridge as the very juvenile leads, Peter Snipp as the birdcatcher and John Connell as — in George Bernard Shaw's words — the voice of God. All this, and you can hear the words too.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300), Wed 31, Fri 2, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

ROCK

David Sinclair

FRANK BLACK Joining up the musical dots from Nirvana to Green Day, yet still wildly different to both, Frank Black is here to promote *The Cult of Ray*, his third solo album since the demise of the Pixies. A performer of wit and substance, Black remains one of the perennial heavy hitters of American rock.
SFX, Dublin (003531 284 1747), Jan 27; **Garage**, Glasgow (0141-332 1120), Jan 29; **Riverside**, Newcastle Ⓢ (0191-261 4386), Jan 30; **Manchester University** Ⓢ (0161-275 2930), Jan 31; **Metropolitan University**, Leeds (0113-244 2999), Feb 1; **Leadmill**, Sheffield Ⓢ (0114-275 4500), Feb 3; **Junction**, Cambridge Ⓢ (01223 412600), Feb 4; **Wulfrun Hall**, Wolverhampton Ⓢ (01902 312030), Feb 5; **Bristol University** (0117-928 9000), Feb 7; **Pyramids Centre**, Portsmouth Ⓢ (01705 358608), Feb 8; **Astoria**, London WC2 (0171-434 0403), Feb 9.

A chorus of approval: grandstander Melissa Etheridge

MELISSA ETHERIDGE/JOAN OSBORNE In her element singing old Janis Joplin songs at the Woodstock Festival of 1994, Melissa Etheridge has revived the grandstanding style of the traditional female rock 'n' roll star. Lionised for her own songwriting by Bruce Springsteen and Randy Newman, she dishes out big, strong themes and sweeping choruses, splashed with primary emotional colours. Her current album, *Your Little Secret*, has been somewhat eclipsed by a new wave of solo American stars which includes support act Joan Osborne, who has been nominated for five awards at the forthcoming Grammies.
Shepherds Bush Empire, London W12 (0181-740 7474), Jan 30.

John Percival

SPRING COLLECTION A chance to catch up with what is happening in British contemporary dance: the Place Theatre and the South Bank Centre combine to offer no fewer than 25 choreographers across three intensive days. There are established creators such as Jonathan Burrows and Siobhan Davies alongside young hopefuls including Mark Bruce. The scheduling allows time to take in all six programmes for a unique cross-section of dance activity.
The Place Theatre, Duke's Road, London WC1 (0171-387 0031), Fri 2, 8pm, Sat 3, 1pm, Sun 4, 11am; **Purcell Room**, Sat 3, 3.30pm, and **Queen Elizabeth Hall**, Sat 3, 7.45pm, Sun 4, 3pm, South Bank Centre, London SE1 (0171-960 4242).

SWAN DANCE 96 A two-month season of seven dance companies opens in High Wycombe with the premiere of *Crime Fiction* by Arc Dance Company (Fri 2 and Sat 3). Coming in February are Adzido (Wed 7), Aletta Collins (Wed 14), and the black company RJC in *Captured* (Fri 23) and the *Hot Shoe Shuffle* (Mon 26 to March 2). Then in March the Royal Ballet Dance Bites tour brings four more premieres (March 18 and 19) and the series climaxes with Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* (March 26-30).
Wycombe Swan, High Wycombe (01494 512000), 8pm; matinées: Feb 28, March 2 and 30, 2.30pm, March 19 and 27, 2pm. Ⓢ

Richard Morrison

PARIS DOUBLE The Orchestre de Paris comes to the Barbican in the "Great Orchestras of the World" series, which perhaps flatters its status: over the years it has shown us its good points but also its sloppy side. Let's hope for the former as Semyon Bychkov, its youngish and personable music director, steers it through Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony* (Thursday), and a programme of Gilbert Amy (a British premiere), Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto with Maxim Vengerov as soloist, and *The Rite of Spring* (Friday).
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Thur Feb 1, Fri 2, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

Maxim Vengerov, violin, plays Mendelssohn at the Barbican

NYMAN'S BACK Half the musical world detests Michael Nyman's pieces; the other half loves them. They are loud, repetitive, mostly derivative and unsubtle — but they create a sound world that is unmistakeably Nyman's own. It usually helps if you have seen whichever of Peter Greenaway's films they originally accompanied. That will probably be the case here: the first British performance of Nyman's *Noises Sounds & Sweet Airs*. It is an opera based on music for *Prospero's Books*, Greenaway's free fantasy on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Singers Catherine Bott, Hilary Summers and Christopher Gillet join the concrete-blasting Michael Nyman Band.
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), Tues, 8pm. Ⓢ

Geoff Brown

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15) Has Pedro Almodóvar finally grown up? It seems so: Spain's most exportable director has made a film of muted design and sober feelings, with kinks just around the edges. Heroine Marisa Paredes is enduring a mid-life crisis over her work (she writes romantic trash) and her marriage to a Nato peacekeeper. This could be a recipe for caricature and farce, but Almodóvar treats the heroine's pain with touching seriousness.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720); **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043); **Renoir** (0171-837 8402); **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen on the Hill** (0171-435 3366).

HEAT (15) "They're good," Al Pacino's workaholic detective muses, observing the work of Robert De Niro's criminals, who are robbing their way round Los Angeles. And so is the film, nearly three hours long but with few wasted minutes. The stars alone command attention: Pacino like a tightly-coiled spring, De Niro rigorously controlled as the dedicated criminal. Michael Mann builds tension, cutting between cat and mouse. Mobile camerawork and lighting create a Los Angeles of lonely souls, and several action set-pieces set new standards.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636), **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031), **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121); **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520); **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332); **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343).

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

SUSAN HILLER In a retrospective at the Tate Gallery Liverpool, Hiller reveals the continuity of her interests over the past 20 years. But the means she adopts never ceases to change. In a work called *Monument*, she brings together the plaques memorialising people who died trying to save relatives or strangers. But the most arresting exhibits employ video with beguiling immediacy. While flames flicker on the wall, a child describes Rembrandt's painting of *Belshazzar's Feast*. Then attention turns to claims, by television viewers, that apparitions appear on their screens. The flames grow larger, inviting us to discover hallucinations in their writhing forms.
Tate Gallery, Albert Docks, Liverpool (0151-709 3223), until March 17.

JANA STERBAK Last year, the Canadian-based Czech artist stirred controversy by exhibiting a dress made of fast-withering slices of flank steak. In a larger show at the *Serpentine Gallery*, only one exhibit seeks to shock. Called *Seduction Couch*, it is made of perforated steel and gives anyone rash enough to touch it an electrostatic sting. In a gruelling video work called *Condition*, Sterbak films a man burdened by a wire-mesh object on wheels. He drags the appendage round a deserted airport, and only casts it aside at the end. Maybe we can draw some comfort from this small victory.
Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London SW7 (0171-723 9072), Feb 25. Ⓢ

John Russell Taylor

PAUL SMITH TRUE BRIT Paul Smith is one of the most successful British designers of menswear, and has been chosen as the subject of the Design Museum's first major exhibition devoted to a single fashion designer. For him true Britishness has more to do with the traditional eccentricity of the British than with sportiness and understated casual elegance. The show includes a collection of videos of Smith's principal fashion shows.
Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, Shad Thames, London SE1 (0171-403 6933). Mon-Fri, 11.30am-6pm; Sat-Sun, noon-6pm, until April 10.

JOHN DOWNTON Was the Modern British painter John Downton (1906-1991), this touring exhibition asks challengingly, an "archaic misfit" or an "enigmatic genius"? There is, presumably, no reason why he should not have been both. He believed passionately that art had been on the wrong road ever since the early Renaissance, and set about putting it back on track by writing texts, such as *The Death of Art*, and by painting modern portraits in his own meticulously finished manner. Occasionally, in his taste for plump young women, he suggests Botero, but in the main he resembles no one, his cool, almost frigid surface containing, if only just, a volcanic force of emotion.
Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0114-273 4780). Mon-Sat, 10am-8pm; Sun, 2-5pm, until Feb 24.

☐ **COMIC CUTS**: Backstage at the Leeds Empire in 1951, times are changing as old-style Variety is menaced by new, young pop singers. Jack Shepherd's play catches the moment of change
Lyric Studio, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4.30pm.

■ **COMPANY** Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage, pro and contra.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm. Ⓢ

◪ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI** Cheek by Jowl's often bewildering production of an already confusing play but Anastasia Hille is marvellous as the beleaguered heroine. Final week.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1746) Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm. Final performances

☐ **LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS.** Helen McCrory, Joseph Fiennes, Rupert Graves and James Purefoy play the passionate lovers, of theatre and one another, in Simon Callow's production of the classic French film. Short season only
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Now previewing: tonight-Jan 29, 7.15pm; mat today, 2pm. Opens Jan 30, 7pm Ⓢ

◪ **THE FIELDS OF AMBROSIA.** American musical with book and lyrics by Joel Higgins, who also stars as a state executioner who falls in love with the woman set to be his next "client". Music by Martin Silvestri. One US reviewer called it "original, compelling and fun"
Aldwych, Strand, WC2 (0171-416 6048). Now previewing: tonight-Jan 30, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 3pm. Opens Jan 31

☐ **FUNNY MONEY**: Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce; Rodney Bewes is the sorely-tried taxi-driver
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm Ⓢ

◪ **GOLDHAWK ROAD**: Enjoyable new Simon Brett play, almost Chekhovian in feel, though centring on the sexual mishaps of a luxury coach-driver, now facing his end not far from this very theatre. Paul Miller directs
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

◪ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**: Sam Mendes's radiant production. Zoë Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter; Ben Walden is Tom
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 3pm.

James Bolam in *Wild Oats* at the National (Lyttelton)

■ **HYSTERIA**. Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dalí, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winner. The funniest serious play in London
Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Today, 3pm and 7.30pm. Final performances. Ⓢ

☐ **LONDON INTERNATIONAL MIME FESTIVAL**: Mime, acrobatics and the haunting skills of contemporary visual theatre, at various venues.
Information: (0171 637 5661). Final week.

☐ **THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL**: Mark Arden and Bert Kwouk in revival of Willis Hall's celebrated jungle-war drama, produced by Counterpoint Theatre Co, to follow their enjoyable *The Streets of Dublin*
Brixton Shaw, Brixton Hill, SW2 (0171-274 6470). Tonight, 7.45pm. Transferring straight to the Albery on Jan 31 (0171-369 1730).

■ **MACK AND MABEL**: Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. Fine songs, though a troublesome book. Starring Howard McGillin and a delightful Caroline O'Connor
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **PRIVATES ON PARADE**. Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at an Army Camp Party in Malaya in 1948. Paul Clayton directs.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm

◪ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE**: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe, Malcolm McKee
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

■ **SWEETHEART**: New play by Nick Rosso, author of the acclaimed *Peaches*. Joe Duttine in the title role of the much-loved but feckless and usually skint Charlie.
Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Now previewing, 7.45pm. Opens Jan 30, 7pm.

☐ **THE TOWER**: Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless. Sinead Cusack plays the sex-mad and murderous queen.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

■ **TRAINSPOTTING**: Irving Welsh's blackest of black comedies, set on the wild side of Edinburgh: drugs, danger and vomit. Last week of the London season after record-breaking tour.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-836 6111). Today, 5pm and 8.30pm.

☐ **TWO TRAINS RUNNING**: Jenny Jules, Tony Armatrading, George Harris among the strong cast for the latest of August Wilson's decalogue of plays about 20th-century black Americans. Set in 1969 Pittsburgh, in a restaurant due to be demolished. Paulette Randall directs.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Now previewing, 8pm. Opens Jan 29, 7pm. Ⓢ

◪ **VOYAGE IN THE DARK**: Strong and poignant production by Sphinx of Jean Rhys's 1934 novel where a naive 19-year-old, adrift in London, finds her hopes for love hitting the rocks. Recommended.
Young Vic Studio, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Tonight, 7.30pm. Final week.

■ **WILD OATS**: Anton Lesser as Rover, the touring actor whose talk is a patchwork of the roles he has played. Highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keefe's 1791 farce, with James Bolam.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 22523). Tonight-Tue, 7.30pm; mats today and Tue, 2.15pm. Ⓢ

◪ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Less amazing stage effects here but still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6555). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

■ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) ... ■ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ... ◪ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) ... ☐ **Dead Guilty**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) ... ■ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ... ■ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ... ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ... ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ... ☐ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

NEW RELEASES

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15): See Critics' Choice, above.

◆ **HEAT** (15): See Critics' Choice, above.

◆ **THE INNOCENT SLEEP** (15): Rupert Graves sees a murder he shouldn't. Creaky British thriller, with Michael Gambon. Director, Scott Michell.
MGMs: Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0171-586 3057) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

MADAGASCAR SKIN: Odd behaviour on a beach. Stillborn British feature from Chris Newby, with John Hannah and Bernard Hill.
ICA Ⓢ (0171-930 3647)

THE MOST DESIRED MAN (18): Broad, mostly pleasant German comedy about sexual identity. Director, Sönke Wortmann.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148)

◆ **SABRINA** (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just does not work. Director, Sydney Pollack.
Empire Ⓢ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **WAITING TO EXHALE** (15): Crude comedy-drama about black women's man problems. With Whitney Houston, Angela Bassett; director, Forest Whitaker.
MGMs: Fulham Road Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18): Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but stiff drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Minema** (0171-235 4225)

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animals. Director, Chris Noonan.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

BRAVEHEART (15): Overly blood-thirsty epic, with Mel Gibson as the 13th century Scottish rebel William Wallace. Gibson also directs.
Odeon Mezzanine Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

◆ **DANGEROUS MINDS** (15): Michelle Pfeiffer brings hope to an inner-city school. Predictable, rose-tinted drama; director, John N. Smith.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **DEVIL IN A BLUE DRESS** (15): Splendidly atmospheric thriller with Denzel Washington as the ordinary Joe in late 1940s Los Angeles stumbling over corpses, police and corruption. Carl Franklin directs, from Walter Mosley's novel.
Curzon West End (0171-369 1722) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **FAIR GAME** (15): Laughable action vehicle for model Cindy Crawford, cast as an attorney in peril. With William Baldwin. Director, Andrew Sipes
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **GOLDENEYE**: (12). Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean. Director, Martin Campbell.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

THE HORSEMAN ON THE ROOF (15): Love and heroism amidst a cholera epidemic in 1830s Provence. Pretty pictures, but little oomph. Jean-Paul Rappeneau directs Olivier Martinez and Juliette Binoche.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **Odeon Kensington** (01426-914 666) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

Marisa Paredes stars in *The Flower of My Secret*

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cage drinks himself to death. Striking, intimate drama from director Mike Figgis. With Elisabeth Shue.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Swiss Centre** (0171-439 4470) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD** (PG): A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories, directed by Frank Oz.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

MUTE WITNESS (18): Mute girl witnesses a film studio murder. Exhilarating and cheeky thriller set in Moscow, with Marina Sudina. Director, Anthony Waller.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SEVEN** (18): Unsettling and off-beat serial killer thriller, with Morgan Freeman and Brad Pitt. Director, David Fincher
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

SHANGHAI TRIAD (15): Enjoyably opulent gangster saga from Chinese director Zhang Yimou. With Gong Li.
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

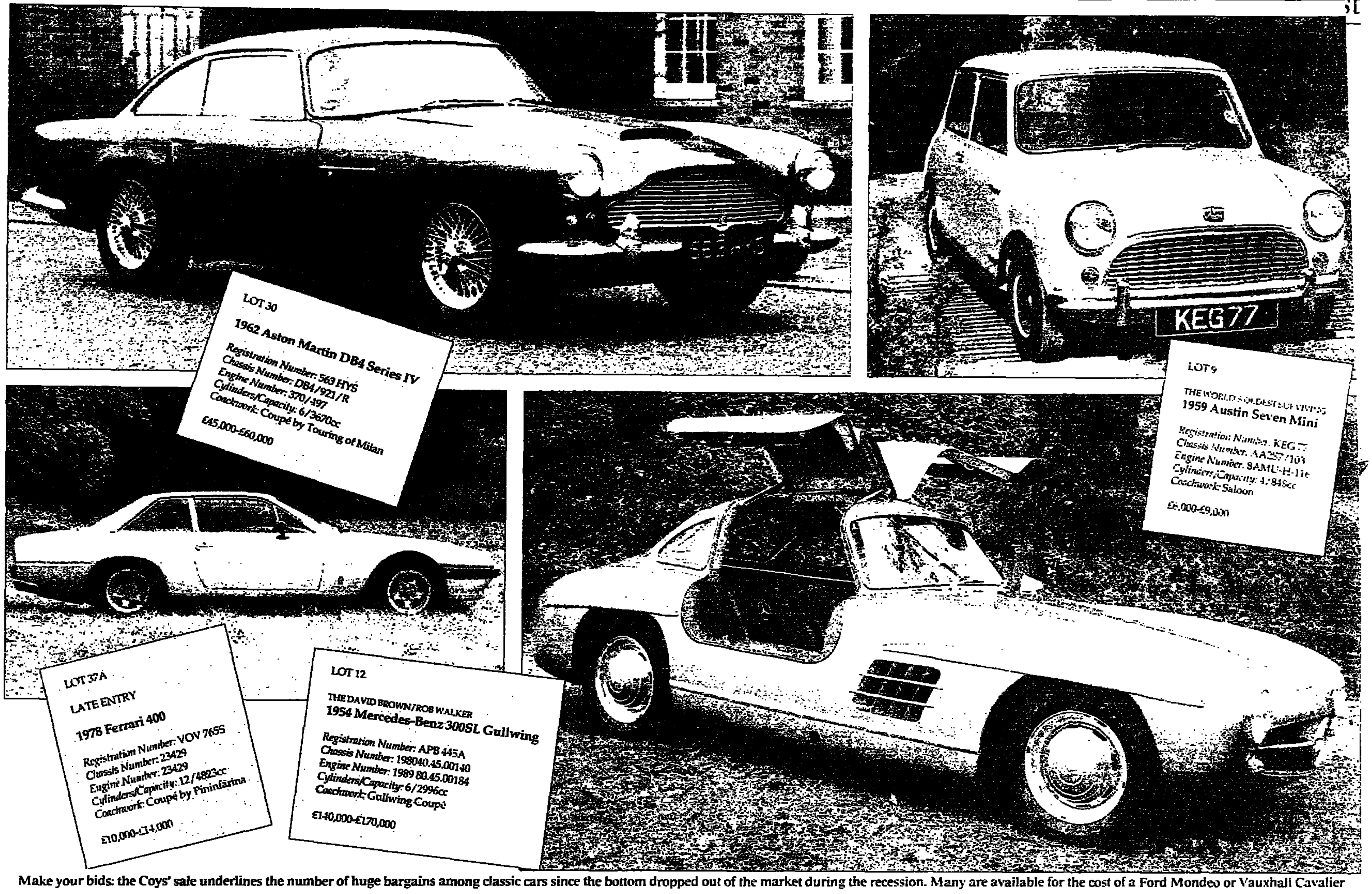
◆ **SHOWGIRLS** (18): Las Vegas stripper finds success is not everything. Hollow tale of hollow people, brazenly presented by director Paul Verhoeven.
Odeon West End (01426 915574)

TO DIE FOR (15): Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683)

THE UNDERNEATH (15). The classic 1940s thriller *Criss Cross* remade as a stylish puzzle by director Steven Soderbergh. With Peter Gallagher.
Plaza (0171-437 1234)

هكذا عن الأصل

Aston Martin . . . Ferrari . . . Jensen . . . the world's oldest Mini . . . **Kevin Eason** flicks through an auction catalogue that is offering unique motoring



LOT 30

1962 Aston Martin DB4 Series IV

Registration Number: 563 HYS
Chassis Number: DB4/921/R
Engine Number: 370/497
Cylinders/Capacity: 6/3670cc
Coachwork: Coupé by Touring of Milan

£45,000-£60,000

LOT 9

THE WORLD'S OLDEST SURVIVING
1959 Austin Seven Mini

Registration Number. KEG 77
Chassis Number. AA2S7/103
Engine Number. 8AMU-H-116
Cylinders/Capacity: 4/848cc
Coachwork: Saloon

£6,000-£9,000

LOT 37A

LATE ENTRY

1978 Ferrari 400

Registration Number: VOV 765S
Chassis Number: 23429
Engine Number: 23429
Cylinders/Capacity: 12/4823cc
Coachwork: Coupé by Pininfarina

£10,000-£14,000

LOT 12

THE DAVID BROWN/ROB WALKER
1954 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing

Registration Number: APB 445A
Chassis Number: 198040.45.00140
Engine Number: 1989 80.45.00184
Cylinders/Capacity: 6/2996cc
Coachwork: Gullwing Coupé

£140,000-£170,000

Make your bids: the Coys' sale underlines the number of huge bargains among classic cars since the bottom dropped out of the market during the recession. Many are available for the cost of a Ford Mondeo or Vauxhall Cavalier

A saleroom with lots to dream about

Once in a while a sale comes along which verges on philanthropy. The owner of an Aston Martin DB4 lavished £90,000 on a two-year restoration only to put it on sale next week, apparently willing to take a huge loss.

The unnamed businessman probably bought the gorgeous DB4 for £40,000 before embarking on the renovation — by Aston Martin Lagonda at the company's factory in Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire — yet is willing to take £45,000 at auction. That must make the 34-year-old DB4 one of the bargains of the year, no matter what happens for the next 11 months.

For the sale underlines the number of huge bargains available among classic cars since the bottom dropped out of the market during the recession. There are cars of *magnificent quality, styling* and history, yet many are available for the cost of a Ford Mondeo or Vauxhall Cavalier.

Instead of turning the key in a humble runabout with all the charisma of a pint of brown ale, the canny buyer with few miles to do and an eye for something special could be firing up all 12 *cylinders of a Ferrari* or going for a spin in a Jensen with a silky V8 beating under a bonnet about as long as a football pitch.

The catalogue issued by Coys of Kensington for the auction at London's Royal Horticultural Halls in Westminster had me drooling over cars that fired my imagination but would not have to lead to one of those discussions at the bank that yield more tension than an Anglo-Irish summit.

So if the fickle finger of the National Lottery points at me this week, I am tucking a Coys catalogue under my arm to choose from one of the beauties that go under the hammer on Tuesday evening. But what would I choose? The world's oldest surviving Mini — a 1959 Austin Seven — is expected to fetch between £6,000 and £9,000, or there is a 3.8-litre *1964 Jaguar E-type Series 1* which could be sold for as little as £10,000.

There is a magnificent maroon 1975 Jensen Interceptor, up for between £7,000 and £10,000, a 1969 Mercedes 280S4 worth £12,500 on a good day, and a Volvo P1800E — the same model driven by television's Roger Moore as *The Saint* — which should attract bids between £3,500 and £5,000. A 1968 Jaguar XJ6, the 19th off the line from Coventry, might raise only £4,000 to £6,000, but for a sporty chap like me with aspirations towards being the new Terry-Thomas, an outstanding bargain is a 1960 MGA 1600 worth between £8,000 and £10,000 but which could still outshine anything on the road for style even 35 years after it left the MG factory at Abingdon in Oxfordshire.

They are cars to dream about, even if they are not best in breed. The Pininfarina-styled Ferrari 400 never *captured the imagination* of enthusiasts because, as a four-seater, it seemed contrary to Ferrari's sporting traditions. But who could resist that 4.8-litre V12 and that long, sumptuous bodywork? For £10,000, you would have to be daft to swap that sort of luxury for the anonymity of a modern saloon.

And that Series IV Aston would knock the headlamps out of every other model in the executive car park. *Buyers* would struggle to pick up a new Jaguar XJS for the £45,000 to £60,000 the Aston is expected to fetch, and there isn't a new Aston available at that price.

Simon Kidston at Coys says: "The businessman selling it has a leather-bound book recording the restoration signed by each of the craftsmen involved at Aston Martin. We find many buyers who get a kick out of restoring the car and want to move on to something else."

There is an Aston connection to the most expensive car at the sale which is expected to draw out the serious money in the audience. The 1954 Mercedes Gullwing 300SL could go for £140,000 to £170,000 when the bidding stops on Tuesday night, but then the car has a rich pedigree.

> There are cars of quality, styling and history

It was the 140th Gullwing built and delivered in January, 1954, to David Brown — chairman of Aston Martin. What the workforce thought of the boss turning up in a car made by one of their major competitors, we shall never know. Sir David sold it to Jack Bartlett, an ex-Brooklands race driver, and the car found its way into the ownership of Rob Walker, the race team owner and friend of Mike Hawthorn, Britain's first Formula One champion.

I would have to sell my house to acquire the Gullwing . . . but pawning the television, video, stereo and two children might just raise enough for that delicious Ferrari. Or should I go for the Jensen? Maybe the record collection will have to go too . . .

Jennai Cox meets the crop sprayer who left his fields to conquer the desert

On your bike for an English first across North Africa

A CROP sprayer from Stockton-on-Tees became the first English *motorcyclist* in 18 years to complete the world's most dangerous motor rally.

Nick Morgan, a 37-year-old agricultural contractor, who rode his first moped at *the age of ten, described passing* the finish line in Senegal on January 14 as "the pinnacle of a lifetime of off-road racing".

The route of the formerly named Paris to Dakar Rally, now the Granada Dakar *since* a tobacco advertising ban stopped the race starting in France, takes cars, vans, trucks and motorcylists through Malaga and across the Mediterranean to the inhospitable terrain of North Morocco, Mauritania, Mali and Guinea. Only half of the 400 participants usually complete the 6,500-mile, 16-day race, described by a previous driver as "unrelenting hell".

Using £21,000 savings and his wife, Katie's, *administration* skills, Nick started planning in January last year after acting as a mechanic to a British team in a Land Rover during the 1995 rally. "Three years ago the idea of taking part in that race just seemed like a dream. But I learnt a lot as a mechanic," he says. "*What the terrain was like, how long the* days were, the funny food and the unsanitary conditions."

After friends warned him "not to get lost like Mark Thatcher", who circled the Sahara for six days during the 1982 race, Nick spent the last 12 months getting bikefit and "punishing my arms and legs". He *took part in dozens of endurance rallies,* bought a new Honda XR600 specially prepared to cope with the desert and geared up to travel at least 16 hours a day. He also bought himself a GPS global positioning system, considered essential for the motorcyclists who travel alone. All but one night of the race, said to be most treacherous for those on bikes, was trouble-free.

"The lighting on the bike went, and I ran out of engine oil. I spent the night buried in a hole on top of a sand dune so I wouldn't get run over," he says. His support van solved the problem the following morning. Of 145 bikes Nick *came in 41st overall and 9th in his class.*

"It was the most fantastic feeling. I have completed the ultimate off-road race and loved every minute," Nick says. One big question remains for a man who has spent 27 years on the back of a bike: "What do I do now?"

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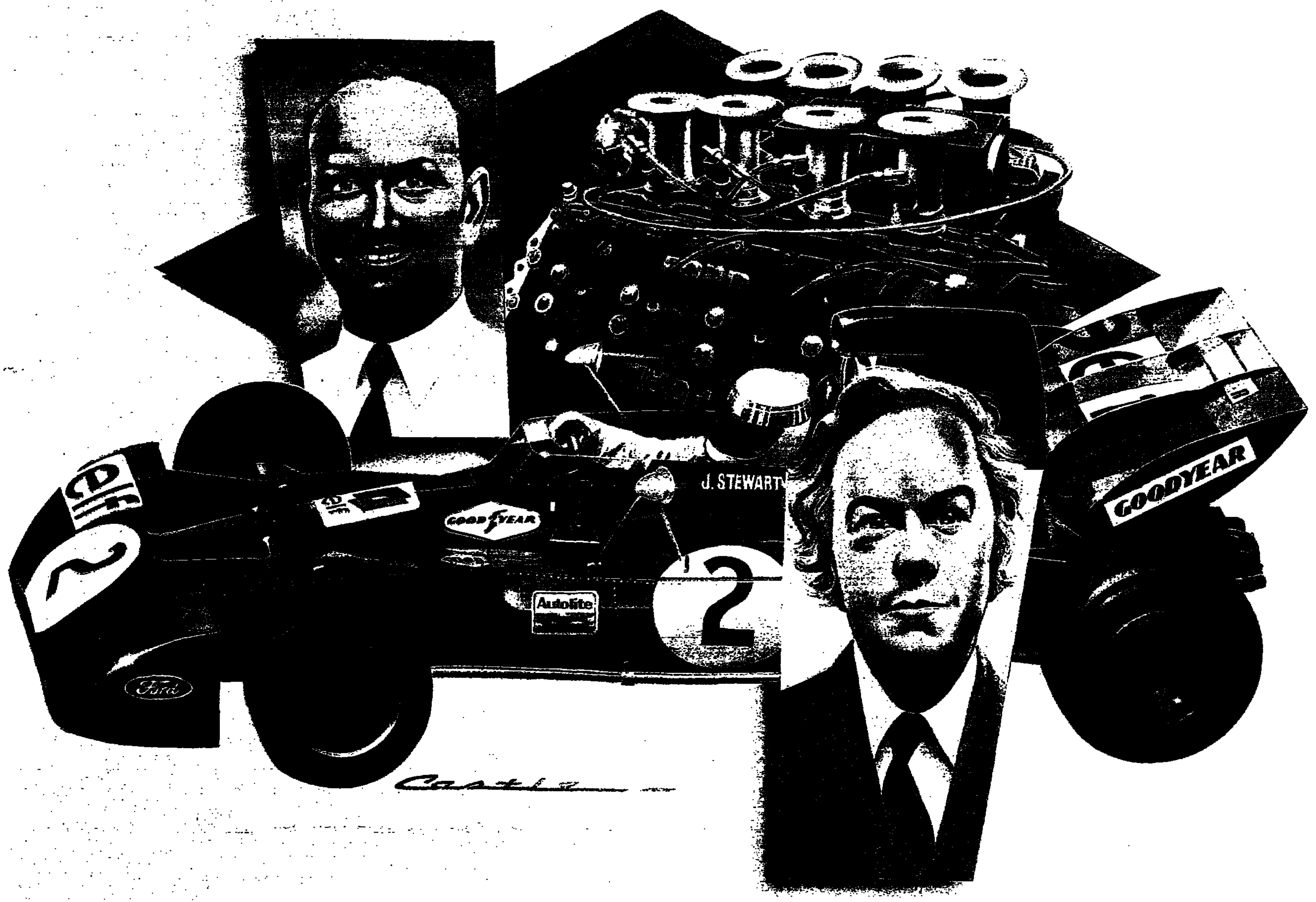

Power brokers: Mike Costin, left, and Keith Duckworth with their record-breaking DFV engine, which powered Jackie Stewart to the World Drivers' and Constructors' Championship in 1971. Illustration by Philip Castle

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Cosworth Engineering of Northampton build racing engines, including the most successful design in grand prix racing history. Between 1967 and 1985 their DFV to DFY series of 3-litre V8s won no fewer than 155 World Championship-qualifying grands prix and powered a dozen Drivers' World Championship winners.

The company was founded in 1958 by two young engineers, Mike Costin and Keith Duckworth. The name combination does not reflect the manner in which Duckworth would play the primary role, but the alternative — Ducktin Engineering — was hardly acceptable.

David Keith Duckworth, born in Lancashire in 1933, was educated at Giggleswick School in Yorkshire and Imperial College, London. Graham Robson, in his definitive history of Cosworth Engineering, *The Search for Power*, summed him up as "engineering design genius, workaholic, frustrated helicopter pilot, successful businessman, multi-talented, super-confident, deep-thinking, forthright, stubborn, often combative, dismissive of fools, gregarious in company but dangerous in argument".

In 1952, after National Service with the RAF, he went to Imperial College. He became interested in motor sport and ordered a Lotus Six kit car from Colin Chapman's embryo company. Due to illness, what should have been a three-year university course occupied four, but he built and briefly raced the Lotus Six and met Mike Costin, the de Havilland Aircraft engineer who then became Chapman's technical director at Lotus.

Graduation triggered a job hunt. Rolls-Royce's interviewers spotted the 24-year-old's "unsuitability to work as part of a team". He fancied the extraordinary engine projects being tackled by Napier, but then he heard that Graham Hill was leaving his Lotus job to try his luck as a professional racing driver. When Chapman offered a post as Lotus's gearbox development engineer, the graduate accepted.

"The Lotus Queerbox" has passed into history as a frail and unreliable device. Lotus parsimony prevented Duckworth making it reliable, and after ten months he was ready to leave. He and Costin recognised their complementary talents; both were interested in "messing about with racing cars and engines". They discussed a joint venture, but Chapman tied Costin to Lotus on a three-year contract which Mike could not refuse.

So Keith went out on his own with Costin initially as a part-time partner — Cosworth Engineering Ltd, being incorporated on September 30 1958. He worked at first in Shaftesbury Mews, Kensington, but a move quickly followed to Friern Barnet, North London, Duckworth having bought a second-hand engine test bed which he installed without benefit of planning permission.

A new class of single-seater racing — Formula Junior — gained international recognition in 1959. It demanded production-based engines of no more than 1100cc with limited modification. Through a friend, Duckworth heard of Ford's forthcoming new 105E engine for the Anglia, which sounded ideal for Junior racing. His prototype Cosworth-Ford FJ unit then made its race debut on Boxing Day, 1959, and at Easter Monday Goodwood 1960, it won its first race, in a new Lotus 18 driven by a young Scot called Jim Clark.

Formula Junior success piled upon success, and the 105E-based Cosworth-Ford engines proved to be the class of the field. Ford of Dagenham approved . . . intensely. Larger premises ex-Lotus were found in Edmonton. Duckworth's attention to gas-flow and camshaft profiles perfected the new Lotus-Ford Twin-Cam 4-cylinder engine which made the Lotus-Cortina saloon a race and rally winner.

Upon completion of his Lotus contract, Costin joined in full-time. Two new 1-litre racing classes were due for 1964 — Formula Two permitting heavily modified production-based engines and Formula Three allowing only minor tuning. Duckworth took the successful Ford 105E bottom end and created a new cylinder head to form the Cosworth SCA — Single-Cam Series A — F2 engine.

By 1964, a greenfield site was acquired in Northampton which Cosworth Engineering still occupies. New racing Formulae demanded new power units, and Duckworth and his specialist team provided them. When Formula One grew from 1½ to three litres from 1966, Chapman asked Duckworth if he felt capable of creating a new F1 engine. The answer was characteristically positive, and Chapman secured funding from Ford. A new 1600cc Formula Two class was launched in 1967, for which, with Ford backing, Duckworth developed his Four-Valve Series A Cosworth FVA twin-cam engine. The 3-litre Formula One Cosworth-Ford engine followed on for Lotus as the Double-Four-Valve or DFV V8. In the 1967 Dutch Grand Prix, Clark won in his Cosworth DFV-powered Lotus 49.

As Cosworth Engineering's activities diversified, so its engineering, design and development staff had to grow — selected, vetted, directed and "kept honest" by Duckworth's crisp rectitude. A driving principle was that borrowing money is inherently immoral. "Duckworth-isms" became engineering lore. "It is better to be uninformed than ill-informed . . . A genius can make, for a penny, what a good engineer can only make for 10p . . . Development is only necessary to rectify the ignorance of designers . . . It's better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool than to open your mouth and prove it."

Diversions included a never-raced prototype four-wheel drive Formula One car in 1969 and a 750cc twin-cylinder motor-cycle engine for Norton in the 1970s. Then General Motors came to Cosworth, commissioning specialist performance engine work for Chevrolet, Vauxhall and Opel, followed by Mercedes-Benz and other giants. The Chevrolet Cosworth Vega, Ford Escort RS1600, 1700 and 1800, the Sierra RS Cosworth range and 16-valve Mercedes-Benz 190s all emerged with Cosworth technology.

Such immense success was not without cost. Duckworth had suffered a heart attack in 1973 and towards the 1980s he worried for his company's future. He could not contemplate it falling into unsuitable hands should death duties force his family to sell, so he looked for a suitable buyer. He found United Engineering Industries, who took over Cosworth Engineering in 1980.

His first marriage ended in divorce and his heart condition worsened, requiring bypass surgery. In 1988, he retired from the chairmanship of Cosworth Engineering, remarried and remains today the most respected surviving engineer of the British class of the 1960s and 1970s. His genius and "straight-as-a-gunbarrel" example took motor sport by the scruff of the neck. "British is Best" had too often been an empty boast; Duckworth gave it genuine substance.

Helen Mound on a Harlequin that makes people laugh

Red and yellow and pink and green . . .

Be prepared to be the butt of a thousand jokes when you drive around in Volkswagen's new Polo Harlequin — so named because its body panels are like the classic multi-coloured costume of Columbine's clown lover.

"Put a few dents in your new car then?" smirked the man behind me in the cash-point queue. "You know you can get replacement panels in matching colours." Brave Harlequin drivers will have to grin and bear it.

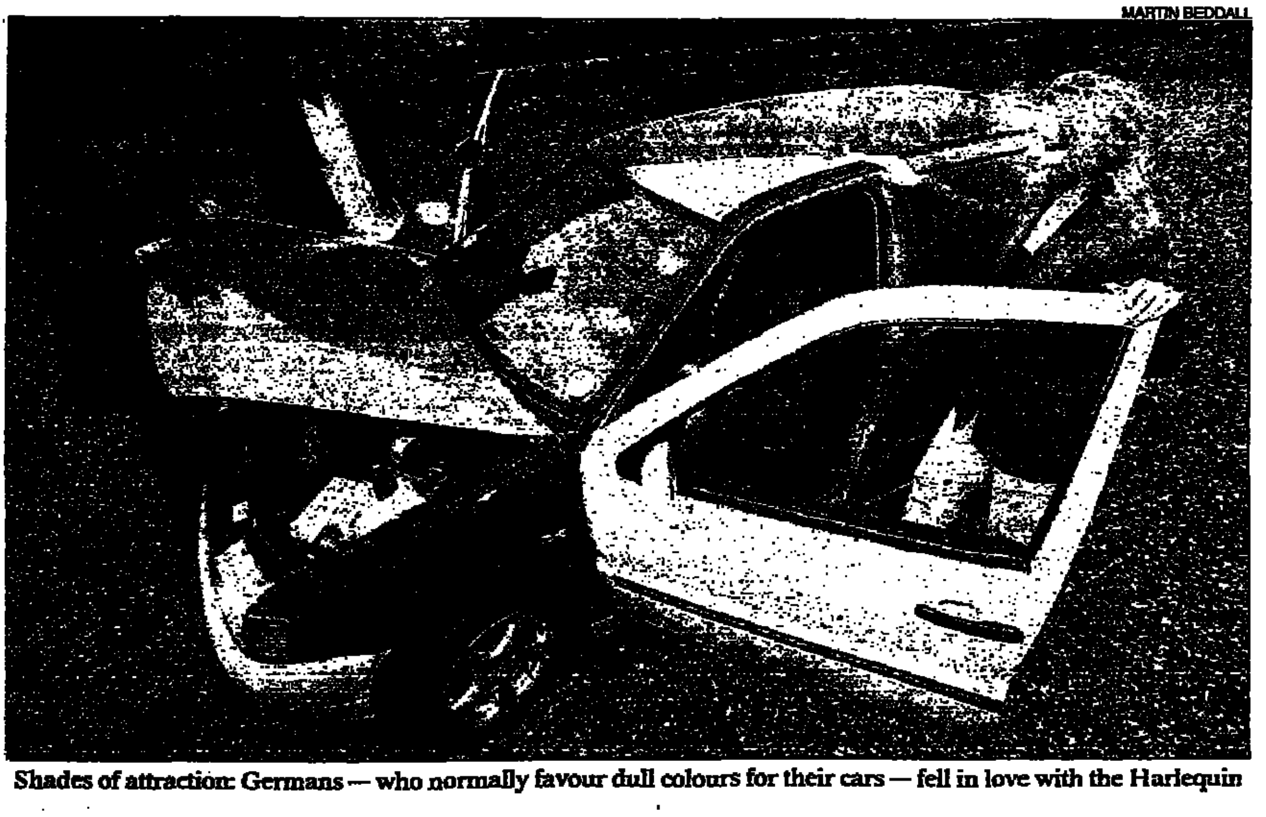
It seems everyone is affected somehow by the brightly coloured supermini. Schoolkids laugh at it, traffic stops for it, lot, and put their hands over their eyes expressing either dazzlement or disgust. Everyone either loves or loathes this car.

But Volkswagen claims there is no shortage of admirers for the Harlequin; it was customer demand that secured its launch. When the new Polo was introduced last year in Germany, the company built a special model with all the different colours that customers could have, a kind of three-dimensional colour-Swatch. Almost immediately, German motorists began ordering the car in multi-colours, so Volkswagen launched the Harlequin, in fers grey and silver, rather than red, as its most popular colour. However, love it they do, and now it's going to be launched over here.

Volkswagen has not decided exactly when the Harlequin will go on sale in the UK ("sometime in the spring"), or how much it will cost ("around £10,000-£11,000"), but it will be based on the £9,645, 5-door, 1.4-litre CL Polo. Perhaps the company is waiting for the rush of customer demand it saw in Germany last year when the special models were displayed in dealerships; whether that will happen is a matter of debate.

A quick survey of friends

MARTIN BEDDALL



Shades of attraction: Germans — who normally favour dull colours for their cars — fell in love with the Harlequin

old bangers already on the road with mis-matched panels," laughed Stuart. "It looks like a glamorous ringer."

He has a point: in a few years' time, when it has lost its originality and the N-reg plate is looking dated, the Harlequin may well resemble a car that someone knocked together from a heap of scrapped Polos.

Ann concedes it is "the only car I've ever seen that looks colourful on a miserable January day". And Ian admits that he had "never looked at a Polo for so long. It's a great marketing gimmick. People just can't take they're eyes off it."

Natania Fraser is definitely not interested in the gaudy little hatchback, but, of course, most teenagers insist on everything being black. So, who is going to buy a car like this? Well it was hard, but I found a Harlequin fan, and once I'd identified her, I found dozens like her. My mum wants one. My best friend's mum wants one, my neighbour's mum

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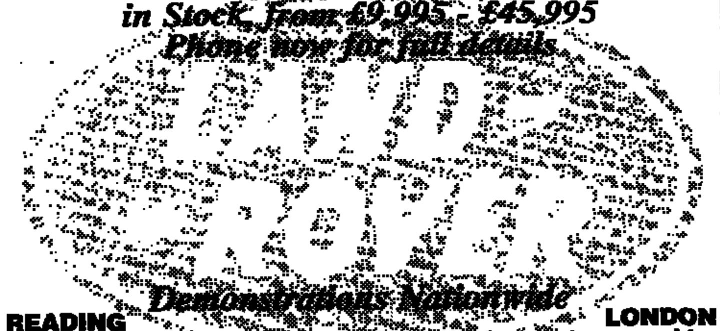

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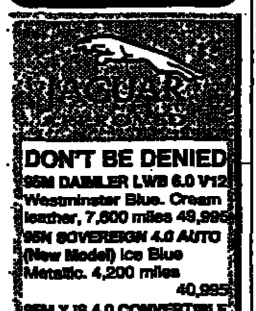

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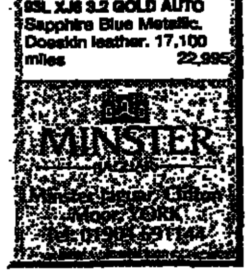

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Vaughan Freeman explains what effect the new fuel consumption test will have on the figures

Now let's see just how far you'll go

For many motorists, the single most important factor in deciding which car to buy is an "official", but wildly inaccurate, assessment of how many miles it covers on a gallon — or how many litres it uses for a 100 kilometres.

As the Department of Transport admits in its current New Car Fuel Consumption guide: "There are infinite variations in driving styles and in road, car and weather conditions. For these reasons, the fuel consumption achieved on the road will not necessarily accord with the official test results."

Which is why, in an effort to make the offical fuel economy results more accurately reflect real-life consumption, the method of calculating the official fuel economy figures is being changed. The changes will mean that some cars, on paper at least, will suddenly appear to be using up to a third more fuel.

The current way of calculating official fuel economy figures was introduced in the 1980s. Cars are tested by independent experts, or by manufacturers at their own test facilities. The testing is subject to assessment and approval by the DoT, and only then does it issue a fuel economy certificate.

The existing system gives details of fuel consumption in town by working out economy over a simulated test cycle in which the car sits on a rolling road at speeds of between 12mph (19kph) and 31mph (50kph) for 2.5miles (four kms). Consumption is also tested at a constant 56mph (90kph), and at a constant 75mph (120kph). An overall "Euromix" figure for the vehicle is found by taking an average of the three figures.

The new method, introduced under European Union guidelines, adopts the old urban mix cycle with its precisely defined braking and acceleration phases to emulate in-town driving. However, the new test begins when the engine is cold, and therefore not at its most efficient, which pushes up fuel consumption. The old test started with the engine already at an efficient operating temperature.

The most significant change comes with the out-of-town fuel consumption test. Where before the car was allowed to trundle along in the highest gear possible so as to obtain maximum fuel efficiency, repeated acceleration and braking in all gears is now included to reflect real life behind the steering wheel.

From this month all new cars, or significantly modified models being prepared for launch, will have their consumption calculated using the new system, and within a year every new car on sale will have to be assessed using the new technique.

The new test means that even cars with identical engines and the same body configuration — saloon, hatch, estate — could return quite different fuel economy figures depending on weight. For example, a car with air-conditioning, tow bar and extra safety equipment would do far fewer miles to the gallon than an identical, lighter vehicle without the gadgets.

Apparent fuel economy will drop too. Vauxhall calculates that under the old test method a Vectra 1.6-litre 16-valve returns a Euromix figure of 44.1mpg, which will fall to an average of 38mpg under the new testing.

The DoT calculates that fuel consumption for identical cars can vary by as much as 45 per cent, depending on how carefully they are driven. To ensure lower bills at the forecourt, regardless of what the official figures — old or new — might say, the department advises:

Don't be lazy: Avoid short journeys, especially on cold days, and cycle, walk or go by bus instead.

Think ahead: Accelerate gently, change gear early and smoothly, and look ahead to avoid sharp braking.

Plan ahead: Choose traffic-free routes where possible.

Slow down: Travelling at 70mph can use up to 30per cent more fuel than 50mph.

Switch off: Turn the engine off when safe to do so, especially if you are likely to be stuck in traffic for more than two minutes.

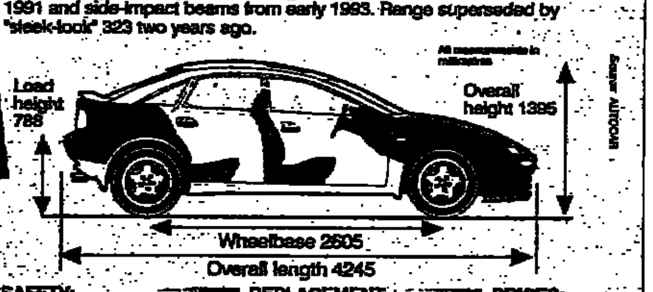
Tyres: Ensure they are at the correct pressures.

Weight: Remove unecessary items from the car, especially a roof rack when you are not using it.

USED CAR BRIEF

MAZDA 323 (1985-1994)

The 323 arrived in 1985 in three and five door guise with 1.1, 1.3 and 1.5-litre engines. An estate followed in 1988 but the major change was the launch of new body styles in 1989, including the fastback shape which was soon to become most popular in the range. Fastback boasts pop-up headlamps and coupe-ish styling. From 1989, all cars - three-door hatch, four-door saloon and five-door fastback - got 16-valve engines available in 1.3, 1.6 and 1.8, and power steering. Catalytic converters standard from 1991 and side-impact beams from early 1993. Range superseded by "sleek-look" 323 two years ago.



GOOD NEWS: With six year anti-corrosion warranty, rust should only be a problem on older cars. Mazda has reputation for faultless reliability that borders on the boring. Dealers often have order lists for used models which means that when it comes time to sell, the 323 fetches more.

BAD NEWS: Low-cut coupe styling of fastback means tall passengers might suffer limited headroom in the rear. High sill of hatch-saved boot makes loading a chore. Finding a handy local garage from small retail network can prove a challenge.

SAFETY: Scores average marks in the latest Department of Transport ratings, on a par with the Nissan Sunny and Renault 19, better than the Peugeot 309, but behind the VW Golf, Vauxhall Astra and Ford Escort/Orion.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT) Full exhaust £380; front damper £110; rear damper £125; front brakepads £60; radiator £150; gearbox £900; alternator (exchange) £240; starter motor (exchange) £155; tyre £56.

PRICES: Expect to pay £1,100 for a 1986 C-reg 1.1LX three-door, £2,225 for a 1988 F-reg 1.5GLX four-door, £3,300 for a 1990 G-reg 1.5LX estate, £4,750 for a 1989 G-reg 1.8GTi fastback and £7,750 for a 1992 K-reg 1.6iGLX fastback.

LOOK FOR: Service history indicating 6,000 mile checks have been carried out and proof that anticorrosion warranty inspections have also been done. Post-1989 cars are a better buy, post-91 catalysed cars "greener" and post-93 cars with side-bars thought safer.

AVOID: Cars that have lived a hard life or done above average mileage at speed and which are prone to rattles. Check all electric items, such as central locking, sunroof and windows are working on better-equipped models.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1991 1.6GLX five-door costs a 55-year-old professional male living in Winchester, with full no claims, £169 a year fully comprehensive, female £183. A 22-year-old male in south London with a year's no claims pays £1,135, similar female £1,019.

OVERALL: Don't be deceived by styling, particularly of the droop-nosed fastback with its vanishing headlamps and coupe cut. The 323, except the more rapid 1.8i, is not a sporty car but a super-efficient family car. Provided you are prepared to pay a little extra for outstanding reliability, the 323 will reward with trouble-free motoring.

50 CARS FROM £10,000-£15,000

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Ford Mondeo 2.0Si 5dr	10095	10250	1.53
Renault Clio 16V 3dr	10095	10095	0.00
Citroën Xantia 2.0VSX 5dr	10350	10495	1.40
Jeep Wrangler 4.0 3dr	11995	12450	3.79
Subaru Legacy 2.0GL estate	11295	11450	1.37
Saab 900 2.0i 5dr	13950	14095	1.03
Renault Espace 2.0RN	14095	13895	-1.41
Peugeot 405 1.9GRD estate	10195	10250	0.53
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*Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on M-reg. low mileage cars. Figures supplied by **CAP Motor Research.***

THE AA is calling for guidelines to save hundreds of motorists unwittingly filling their tanks with the wrong fuel. The motoring organisation calculates that last year it drained 1.5 million litres of fuel from 34,000 cars broken down as a result of drivers pumping the wrong fuel.

One of the main causes of confusion, says the AA, is the use of the term "Four Star", delivered from a pump with a red handle, which most drivers believe is delivering Four Star leaded fuel. In fact, quite often it is pumping a fuel based on super unleaded.

Now the AA is calling for an end to arbitrary colour-coding and industry-wide standards ensuring the colour of the pump handle signifies the same thing. David Lang, the AA's chief engineer, says: "The need for standard test procedures across the industry to verify the quality, effect, and performance of fuel is crucial. Without it, the debate about a fuel degenerates into claim and counter-claim, leaving the motorist utterly confused."

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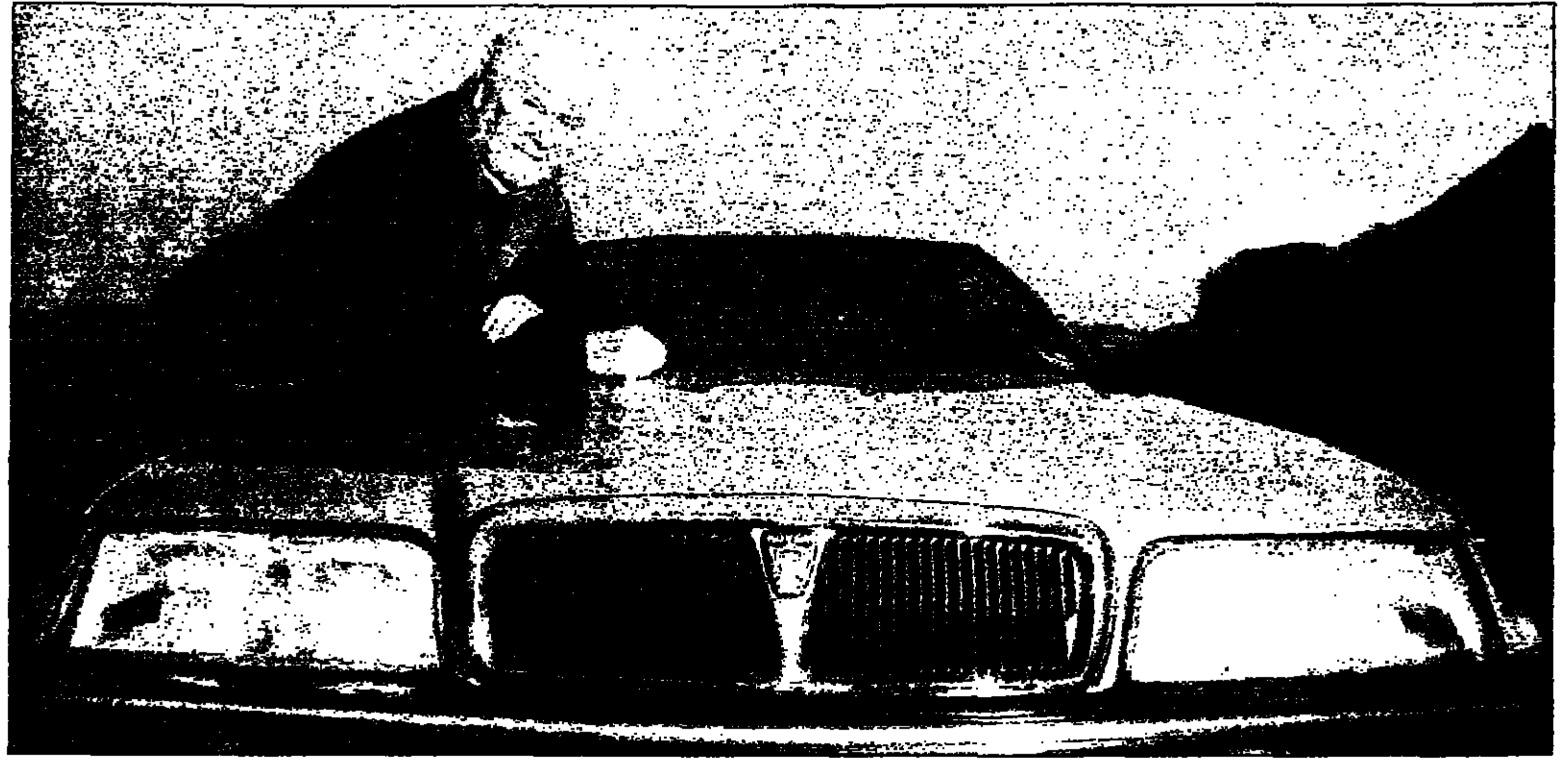
Transatlantic rower Chay Blyth tells **Andrew Pierce** why he has so many points on his licence

MARC HILL



Chay Blyth and his Rover 800: he was last caught for speeding at 112mph — but he once knew how many people were on the front of the Highway Code

At high speed on dry land

Chay Blyth, a former British paratroop sergeant, solo circumnavigator under sail, and adventurer, long ago hung up his sailing boots. Today he is the architect of the 30,000-mile BT Global Challenge when 14 steel yachts set sail round the globe.

The race, which starts in September, will revive memories of the summer of 1966 when two British soldiers left Cape Cod, Massachusetts, to row across the Atlantic in a 20-foot dory. After 92 days of deprivation, discomfort and danger on the high seas, Blyth became a national hero. The day before they landed in Ireland, he wrote in his diary: "It's all over. I am not getting in a boat again for anyone."

But, of course, he did. Now, 30 years later, other seafarers are paying Blyth thousands of pounds for the chance to try to emulate his feat.

How did you first learn to drive?

With the Army using a Land Rover. I was amazed to be asked: how many people are on the front of the Highway Code? It was an army test. They would ask the most peculiar thing. I got it right. I think there were seven.

What was your first car?

A Mini van. It was all I could afford. It cost me about £400. After I rowed across the Atlantic I found I had a bit of money, so I went upmarket and bought a Morris Oxford.

What car do you drive now and why?

Rover 800 series coupé. I love the sporty lines. It is a superb car.

Do you like driving?

Yes. Which is just as well. I live in Liskeard in Cornwall and most of the business is in London. It means I drive 40,000 to 50,000 miles a year. Speeding becomes a problem.

What is your most hated car?

Those ridiculous 2CVs.

What is your dream car?

An immaculate MKII 3.8 Jaguar in British Racing Green or white.

STEERING COLUMN

What is your worst habit in the car?

Speeding. I am forever getting booked. I am doing all right at the moment. Some points have dropped off. I think I have got eight at the moment.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they hog the fast lane on motorways and refuse to pull over. Also, I am a keen horserider and spend weekends winding down country lanes with my wife, Felicity, on our horses. I get very cross when motorists do not show any consideration.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

Run a chap down by design. He was very happy. We had just finished our Christmas lunch at the barracks. I was on my way back home. A soldier was crossing the road in front of me. I was stone cold sober as I was driving to Scotland. I blew my horn. Three of them carried on walking, but one stood with his legs apart, hands on his hips, gesticulated rudely and dared me to drive on. I did. He went to hospital.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Continually. I have been banned four times. Guess why? Speeding. The last time they clocked me doing 112mph.

What do you listen to in the car?

Disco-style light pop music, mostly 1960s and 1970s stuff.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Tax caravans and cyclists. I don't like either of them. When you live in the West Country, caravans are a menace with the traffic queues they can cause.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The one with the car which went through the Tunnel of Love.

John Samuel looks at Hyundai's Lantra and its ambitions

Is this a good top ten Korea move?

Any medium-sized estate car for under £12,000 deserves a second look, and the curvy Hyundai Lantra, marketed with a retrospect to Marilyn Monroe and Sophia Loren, is bound to turn more heads.

In automobile terms, what you see is what you get. The 1.6GLSi at £11,999 and 1.8CD at £14,249 are around 10 per cent less than most rivals. Where Daewoo has majored on presentation, Hyundai has concentrated on product, achieving a 52 per cent increase over the last two years with a spread of vehicles, albeit with a significant gap.

For the moment, the Mondeo-sized Lantra is the first wholly Korean-developed saloon in its class, and the estate is another first. It is intended to further boost Hyundai's ambition to become one of the world's top-ten carmakers.

The immediate verdict is a class-competitive rather than class-leading estate. Less capacious than the new Laguna, it avoids the Renault's rear-end boxiness. It does not have the turbo-diesel option of the Citroën Xantia, nor an equivalent capacity, but it makes excellent use of its cabin space, seats five comfortably and is easy to manoeuvre.

Engines, brakes and steering are well up to the mark, but an element of chatter over certain surfaces sets it below the best European chassis standards. On motorway and better suburban roads it rides perfectly well, and the equipment levels are a bargain. The 1.8CD, for example, incorporates air conditioning.

The Lantra saloon, launched in the autumn is going well, and a coupé at less than £10,000 is due soon. But, given Hyundai's top-ten ambitions, why no hatchback, a style much beloved of the British and French, if not the Germans? The answer, according to export director J.H. Kim, is in its worldwide strategy.

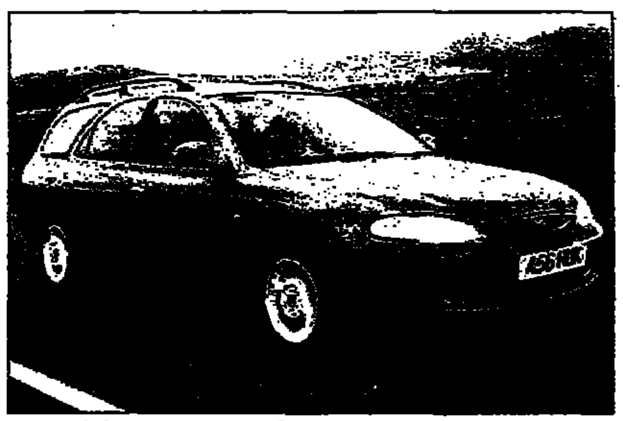
It is perhaps salutary for Europe that Brussels perspectives are not everything. "Here we are breaking into a two-car-a-family market. The same with America. But China has 1.2 billion people and a one-car-a-1,000 market. Indonesia 190 million, Vietnam 90 million. China has a 30 per cent growth rate. Parts of Latin America, too."

The Koreans are at pains to point out their differences to Japan. It is not a consensus society. Strikes are not unknown and rising expectations in its workforce puts pressure on labour costs. But they do, for the time being, have an advantage in well-made, well-specified, original products at a lower price.

Hyundai's progress has been remarkable since its first exports to Ecuador 19 years ago. At concept level there are driverless and hydrogen-fuelled cars; also a hybrid with electrical propulsion boosted by a small combustion engine for serious long-distance driving. Its sporty HCD III leaves the 1976 Pony — its first production car — snorting in a Victorian stable block. Home plants at Ulsan, Chunju and Asan are said to be capable of up to four million vehicles by 2000. Existing production facilities in Zimbabwe, Egypt, Thailand and the Philippines by then could be augmented by others in China, Latin America and Europe.

How much of the targeting is rhetoric? In Britain, the Lex Group is energetically pursuing its majority franchise acquired from the IM Group. Its managing director, David Walker, has pushed hard — so far without success — for a five-door Lantra on the basis that there must be flexibility for given markets.

Europe and North America each took around 80,000 of the 1994 production and "others" 107,000. Targets for the millennium are 148,000 Europe, 150,000 American and 200,000 others. Koreans do not share Japanese precision with marketing targets or loss of face if they are not achieved. "Theirs are an ideal," said a Lex insider. "If you don't make them, too bad, but you've tried."



Hyundai Lantra estate 1.8: what you see is what you get

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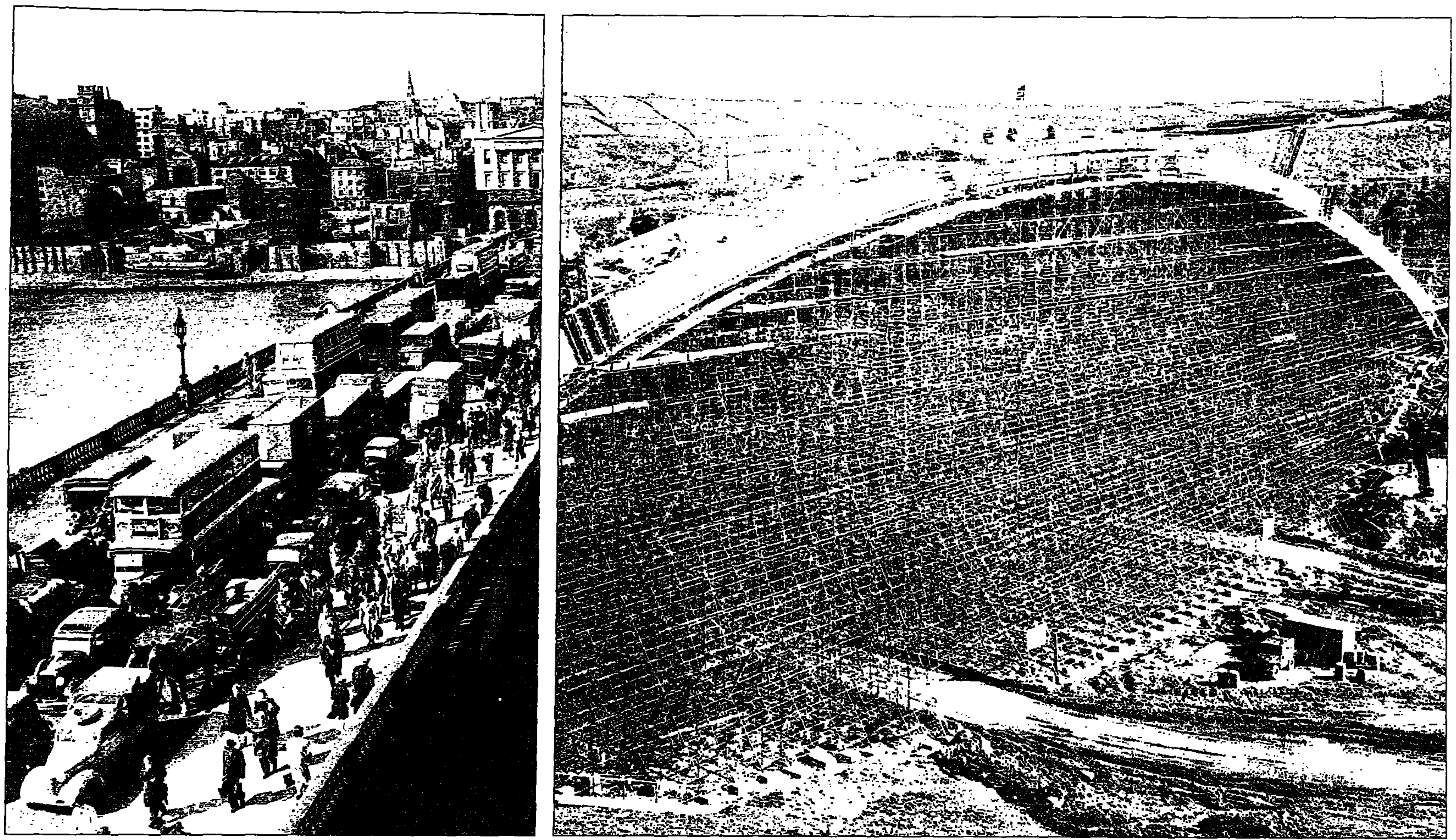
Vaughan Freeman looks back over a century during which the revolution of the internal combustion engine has totally altered the face of Britain

New landscape, a portrait in motor oil



From walking pace to high-speed motoring: London Bridge clogged with traffic in 1947 and the gigantic steel scaffolding "harp" that supported the concrete span to carry to A6025 from Halifax to Oldham across the M62 under construction in 1969

In 100 years, the car turned a nation of erratically planned and poorly maintained tracks into one throughout which bitumen, road signs and street lighting are the everyday backdrop to our lives.

The demand of the motorist for roads wide enough for unimpeded progress, capable of handling ever faster cars and for surfaces friendly to easily punctured tyres has dictated probably the greatest change in our road network since the Romans.

Roads improved vastly in the early 1800s with the advent of the mail coach and the work of engineers such as John Metcalf, Thomas Telford and John McAdam, but conditions deteriorated again later in the century as people and freight switched to the railways and roads were ignored. That changed again when, in November 1896, the Locomotives on Highways Act was repealed and the speed limit raised from 4mph to 12mph and again to 20mph under the 1903 Motor Car Act. The 20mph limit remained in force until 1930 but was widely ignored.

Even at 20mph, cars created a major environmental problem — dust. Great plumes were thrown up as cars raced and bumped over what were little more than exaggerated cart tracks. As city fathers peered through the gloom and pedestrians coughed their way to the shops, authorities decided something must be done and called for water sprays to damp down the dust; there was even a suggestion to pipe seawater from Brighton to London to spray the capital's streets.

A more sensible idea was at hand though: tar. Used experimentally in the 1850s, thousands of miles of Britain was soon covered in the stuff. Roads sealed with tar were smoother, lacked mud and tyre-splitting stones and enabled cars to go yet faster. Bitumen, a product of refined crude oil, increasingly took over from tar during the 1920s.

As speeds increased so too did the need for signs warning of dangers ahead. Ad-hoc early signs, many set up by the Cyclist Touring Club, included boards showing the skull and crossbones on the steepest hills and blindest corners.

Uniformity began with the 1903 Motor Car Act, which made provision for local authorities to put up warning signs for crossroads, steep hills and dangerous corners. A hollow red triangle indicated a warning, and a solid red disc a prohibition, the basis of today's signs. The first speed limit signs, for 10mph, featured a hollow white ring above a plate giving the limit in figures.

Slowing cars down was one thing, stopping them another. Traffic lights appeared around 30 years before the car when, in 1868, the first set was installed to help MPs cross Bridge Street to and from the Houses of Parliament. The red and green lights were lit by gas and changed by hand by a policeman, but exploded soon after they went into operation. Traffic lights were reborn in their familiar green, amber and red form in 1918 in Piccadilly, though still manually operated by police, and, in 1927, the first automatic traffic lights lit up Wolverhampton and Leeds.

The sometimes baffling array of red, white and yellow paintwork adorning modern roads began with the white lines painted down the centre, which began to proliferate after the First World War. They spread rapidly throughout the 1920s and white lines were also used as stop lines at road junctions. Double white lines prohibiting overtaking were introduced in 1957.

Although the car flourished, pedestrians were finding it increasingly difficult to cross the road. In 1934, Leslie Hore-Belisha, the Minister of Transport, authorised the installation of pedestrian crossings marked with white or yellow "herring bone" lines together with the first pole-mounted amber globes — Belisha Beacons — which were tried out in London's Kensington Road. The crossings became black and white from 1947 and the beacons started flashing in 1954. The white zig-zag markings either side of a pedestrian crossing were introduced from 1971.

The dreaded yellow no-parking lines first appearanced in 1956 in Slough, which sprouted a single yellow no-parking line, and double yellow no-loading lines. The first parking meters also arrived in the late 1950s to decorate town and city centres.

Although motorways were proposed in 1906, and the first opened in New York in 1914, Britain's first, the M1, was not opened until November, 1959, Ernest Marples, Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation. When it was built there were 8.5 million vehicles in Britain: now there are closer to 25 million.

The first motorways were without a speed limit or signs thanks to the touchingly naive faith that traffic would suffer no hold-ups or delays. A number of accidents in the mid-1960s in fog, with high speeds a contributing factor, changed that view. Message boards were set up and in 1967 the 70mph limit was made permanent on unrestricted roads.

If safety was the key to road design in the 1960s, it became an even more crucial shaping element in the way our roads were built through the 1980s and 1990s. The first road-hump legislation was introduced in 1983, the Gatso speed camera in 1992, and traffic calming measures such as chicanes and gateways on urban roads in 1993.

Yet some things remain the same. A hundred years ago this month, Walter Arnold of East Peckham, Kent, became the first motorist to be convicted of speeding when he was caught driving at 8mph in a 2mph area. The same year saw the first in a sad tide of road deaths when Bridget Driscoll of Croydon was run over and killed by Arthur Edsell's Roger-Benz at Crystal Palace. It is thought that Mrs Driscoll froze, panic-stricken, at the strange sight of the car as it bore down on her at 4mph.

In 1900, A.J. Balfour MP took delivery of a De Dion Voiturette and, impressed, told the Commons he "looked forward to new methods of travelling" and believed that "great highways for motor traffic might be constructed".

The highways arrived, but whether they represent progress can be measured by the fact that, although the speed limit was raised to 20mph in 1903, 20mph zones were reintroduced in 1991 to cut urban accidents and deaths, especially among children, while the 1896 limit of 12mph is about the average speed for a vehicle travelling in London in 1996.

DR DASHBOARD

On the trail to Gunfight at the OK Corral

Q **This morning an impatient young woman tore down the outside lane at the lights then turned left across the traffic while the lights were on red. I followed her, flashing my lights and blowing my horn, but she refused to take any notice. People like that should be taken off the road, shouldn't they?**

A Put down that pen of vitriol and go look in the mirror. Your blood pressure has probably gone ballistic because you have worked yourself into a state. What is the point?

Q **What's the point? Behaviour like that is disgraceful and should be stamped on. Why condone that sort of driving?**

A I don't. But two wrongs don't make a right. She was wrong — and more than likely knows it — but chasing her down the road like some inner-city imitation of Wolf and the Road Runner is not the way to solve the problem. What if she had stopped?

Q **I would have remonstrated with her most severely and told her to clean up her road manners in no uncertain terms.**

A So you would have stamped your feet and shouted and stabbed her in the chest with your index finger. Ever heard of road rage?

Q **Don't patronise me. I was angry for a good reason. I do not lose my temper on the road the way other selfish and uncouth people do.**

A Yes. I can see that. Actually, you are a textbook case we doctors would refer to when warning patients about the dangers of road rage, which threatens to take over from 'flu as this year's epidemic.

A Is that so? According to the Lex Report on Motoring this week, there were 1.8 million incidents when drivers were forced to pull over during last year and 800,000 instances of motorists being threatened. Half a million had their cars driven into and 250,000 were attacked by another driver.

Q **Gosh. I had no idea things were that bad? But what I did has no bearing on statistics which relate to people swapping punches and hitting each other's cars.**

A Doesn't it? The fact that you reacted so angrily makes you a leading contender for a biff on the hooter. One driver does something stupid and the other decides to exact revenge, tempers rise and before you know it, you are a leading player in a rerun of the Gunfight at the OK Corral.

Q **But you have to be angry with drivers like that stupid woman. It is only natural, isn't it?**

A Maybe, but you have to curb your temper. If the rest of Britain wants to have a heart attack at the wheel, tell yourself that is fine so long as you are not involved. Besides, the driver you take on might turn out to be a 6ft 6ins, 18-stone rugby player ... and broken bones really hurt. I know. I am a doctor.

Q **But I can't help losing my temper. What can I do when I see things that are blatantly wrong?**

A Seems obvious, but just relax. Tell yourself nothing matters that much. If you are cut up or someone "tailgates" the back of your car, take some deep breaths, swallow your masculine pride and get out

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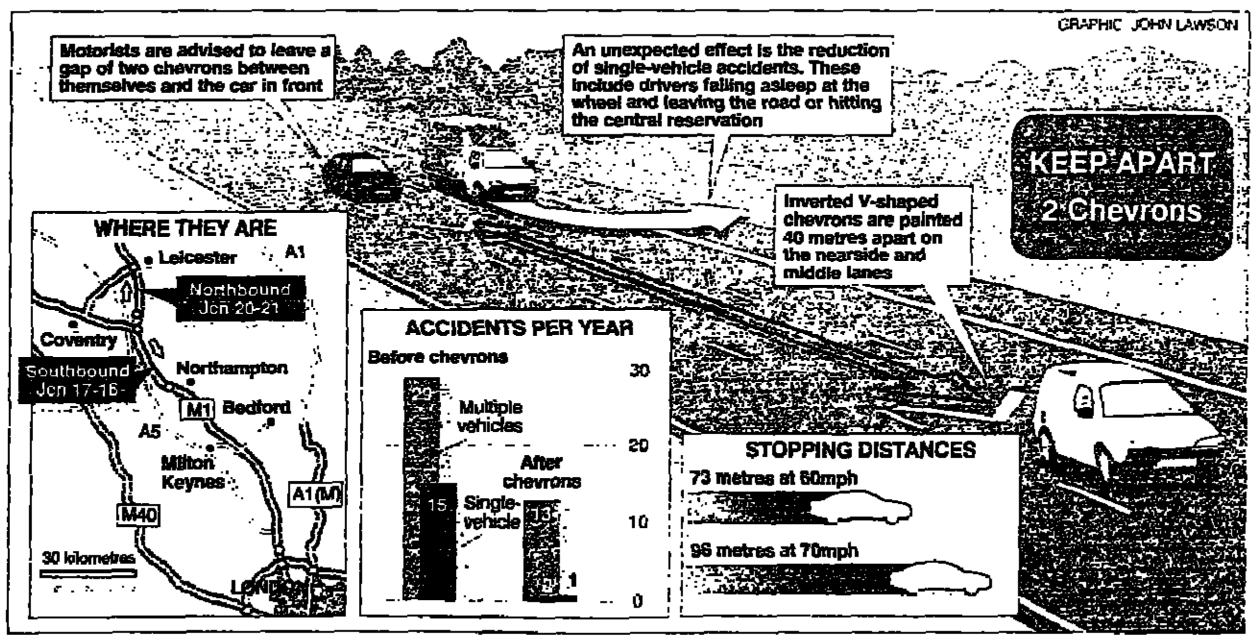
A paintbrush that keeps people alive

Simple white chevrons save £1.6m and slash accident rates on the M1



GRAPHIC JOHN LAWSON

Motorists are advised to leave a gap of two chevrons between themselves and the car in front

An unexpected effect is the reduction of single-vehicle accidents. These include drivers falling asleep at the wheel and leaving the road or hitting the central reservation

Inverted V-shaped chevrons are painted 40 metres apart on the nearside and middle lanes

A pot of white paint has helped to cut death and injury accidents by more than half on two of the busiest stretches of the M1, **writes Vaughan Freeman.**

In probably the most cost-effective safety initiative ever, the Highways Agency simply painted hundreds of white chevron shapes, familiar to anyone who has motored the autoroutes of France, at 40-metre intervals on two sections of the motorway, one where it passes through Northamptonshire and the other passing through Leicestershire.

The inverted V-shaped chevrons were introduced in 1993, painted on the nearside and centre lanes of motorway, and have not only eased traffic congestion and speeded traffic flow but, more significantly, have reduced multi-vehicle and rear-end collisions by more than 50 per cent.

The researchers also found, much to their surprise, that the incidence of single-vehicle accidents, in which a car or truck left the road to hit the central reservation or cross the hard shoulder as the driver fell asleep or lost concentration, also dropped. The theory here is that the chevron-counting driver, busily ensuring he or she is the advised two chevrons apart, has something to keep the brain busy and so stays more alert.

A TRL research document, were not designed directly to affect single-vehicle accidents and any reduction should be regarded as a bonus.

"It would be optimistic to suggest the chevrons virtually eliminate single-vehicle accidents, but the results suggest that such accidents are considerably reduced by the chevrons. The markings probably act as an alerting device in an

Even after the chevrons have petered out, the reduction in accidents continues for about 11 miles after the last one painted on the road surface. The TRL calculates that in the Northamptonshire stretch of the M1, 30 accidents have been prevented, at a saving to the emergency services and ultimately to the taxpayer, of £1.6 million, not to mention the life-savers on thousands of miles of motorway around the rest of the country, but the authorities are wary about simply slapping paint on roads without knowing the full effects of the trials.

The worry is that part of the effectiveness of the chevrons is due to the fact that they are an unfamil-

A Highways Agency spokesperson says: "Results have so far been very, very positive and, certainly initially, the indications are that it has been highly successful in reducing accidents. Certainly we want to look at introducing it on other parts of the network.

"We would not, however, want to put them everywhere as there is the danger that that

Touring champions put John on the fast track to fame

Mike Nicks on a big break

If John Bintcliffe feels pains between his shoulder blades at night, it's probably because most of Britain's racing drivers are sticking pins into effigies of him.

For this impish 29-year-old has grabbed one of the most coveted seats of the 1996 season: a factory drive with Audi, the world touring car champions, in this year's British Touring Car Championship. His team-mate will be the German world champion Frank Biela.

Bintcliffe, however, remains undaunted by his high-octane leap from obscurity: "I'm just waiting to get on with doing the driving. The impact won't hit me until I pull out of the pit road at Donington Park for qualifying."

Bintcliffe: "I'll just get on with the driving"

That will happen on the weekend of April 8, when the touring car circus starts its 13-round, 26-race championship at the Derbyshire circuit. Bintcliffe's abilities will then come under the scrutiny of up to 90,000 spectators and three million BBC *Grandstand* viewers.

Bintcliffe has endured poverty to achieve success. A panel beater's earnings couldn't fund the traditional racing driver's apprenticeship of karting and tuition at racing schools: he was 25 before he had saved enough to get on a starting grid, in a Honda CRX coupé at Silverstone in 1992.

"I didn't know what I was doing. I didn't walk round the circuit before practice, and all I knew of the corners was their shape on the map. I did some stupid do-or-die maneouvre and spun off. I just wanted to win from the word go."

For 1993 Bintcliffe pulled together £22,000 to fund a car for the national Renault Clio championship. "I rolled the car trying to set the fastest time in the first official test session of the year," he says. "I felt all my money going "shwisht!"." He escaped with a £4,000 bill for crash repairs, but caused a further £4,500 of damage in the third race of the year by over-revving his engine. "After that I was skint — my budget had been wiped out."

Inspiration came from his father, Barry, who was in hospital suffering from the cancer that was soon to take his life. "I told my dad that I thought I could make it as a racing driver and he said 'If you really think so, just go for it'."

To finance a new season, Bintcliffe sold his possessions, rented out his house and moved into his grandfather's bungalow. The low point of this marginal existence came when he was forced to sell his prized TAG Heuer sportsman's watch for £280 to buy a pair of tyres. But his persistence paid off: he won the 1994 Elf Renault Clio UK Cup and followed this with victory in the Ford Credit Fiesta Championship last year.

He got the Audi job after meeting Richard Lloyd, a former touring car champion and Audi's team co-ordinator, at an endurance race at Snetterton.

Bintcliffe's new job will not be easy. Audi are unique in the BTCC in using four-wheel-drive against front-wheel-drive opposition from Vauxhall, Renault, Ford, Volvo, Honda and Peugeot, and BMW's rear-drive cars. Audi's A4 will therefore have to lug a 65kg weight penalty.

But Bintcliffe points out: "A quick front-wheel-drive car is the hardest thing to drive. All the power, braking and steering inputs are going through the same axle. It makes the cars tend to spin. Four-wheel-drive should let you get away with a lot more."

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Dances with Cherokees

Alan Copps finds Chrysler Jeep's latest model in the four-wheel-drive market a serious Range Rover rival

Along with Barbours and green wellies, the big four-wheel-drive has entered our national mythology. Loved by middle-class children to whom it offers a grandstand seat on the school run, the mothers who drive them for that purpose are demonised by commuters everywhere.

If your object is to get from home to office by car in the minimum of time exploiting every centimetre of road space, then the back end of a Range Rover, Frontera, Shogun or Jeep Cherokee might as well be the back end of an articulated lorry: it's difficult to see past and frequently impossible to squeeze past.

Then there are the constant jibes aimed at those younger trendies who buy "fun" off-roaders and never venture away from a tarmac surface just in case they get them dirty. It is estimated that only 30 per cent of 4WD vehicles sold ever get to travel off the road, but still the market in Britain grew by more than 11 per cent last year.

That makes Richard Mackay a happy man. He is managing director of Chrysler Jeep in the UK, whose Cherokee in various guises has been one of the main beneficiaries from the growth in the market. "Think how happy other makers would be if the market overall grew by that amount. In fact, it grew by just 1.8 per cent," he says.

Since resuming sales in Britain three years ago, Chrysler Jeep has sold nearly 15,000 Cherokees, twice the number it predicted, and this week it launched the Austrian-built, 4-litre, all-singing, all-dancing (literally) Grand Cherokee. Bigger, better equipped and better-looking than the smaller Cherokees, with automatic transmission as standard at a price of £28,995, it presents a head-on challenge to the enduring Range Rover.

"We see the Grand Cherokee as a luxury car which happens to have four-wheel-drive," says Mackay, pointing to figures that show that the most popular part exchanges against its smaller cousins have been upmarket saloons such as Mercedes, BMW and Volvo. Climb up into the leather seats and look at the dashboard oozing with electrical equipment and it's not difficult to see the logic in that view.

But Mackay also points out that growth in the market is patchy. "It favours the makers with a four-wheel-drive heritage," he says, clearly placing Jeep at the head of that list, but declining to identify others. Land Rover and Mitsubishi with the strong-selling Shogun must be the most obvious entrants.

When the going gets tough . . . as Jeep's off-road expert, Barry Stallard's roller coaster includes spectacular descents on loose rocks

The Jeep team was only too anxious to demonstrate how well this luxury car would perform over the rough. If you want to see a Grand Cherokee dance, the man to consult is Barry Stallard, Jeep's off-road expert, whose job consists of devising ever more fiendish things for these vehicles to do. On the fringe of Snowdonia, 1,000ft up, he had marked out a 45-minute off-road course which included a series of spectacular descents on loose rocks, an underwater roundabout and a flat-out dash up what was probably the steepest slope I have ever climbed in a vehicle.

But the centrepiece of this exercise was something called Stallard's roller coaster, a short rise with bumps, rather like moguls on a ski slope, placed assymetrically so that every time one wheel rose the other on the same axle dropped, frequently twisting at the same time and admirably demonstrating the virtues of Jeep's Quadra-trac four-wheel-drive system and gas-filled dampers. Watching the car in front climb this slope, the word "dancing" seems appropriate. The climb ends in a pinnacle from which the car virtually stands on its nose as it plunges into a muddy pond and exits just as steeply.

The Grand Cherokee performed all this with great aplomb. But that is the contradiction built into these off-road limousines: I can't really see many owners shelling out £30,000 and then cheerfully listening to the graunch of rocks hitting the sump guard, loose stones flying against the paintwork and watching glutinous mud cling to the door sills ready to smear their clothes.

If you do this sort of thing in earnest, you are probably not too worried about having the leather seats with eight-way power adjustment and two-position memory or the six-speaker stereo system or the automatic air conditioning.

Controls, incidentally, will flick from centigrade to Fahrenheit at the touch of a button, but if you use centigrade the trip recorder and everything else flicks into kilometres, a feature which I predict will produce some interesting generational conflict if you use this as a family car.

The level of standard equipment is so high that there are only two items on the options list: a sunroof and a CD changer. If you enjoy the high driving position of an off-roader, then on the motorway or on the passes of Snowdonia this is a limousine that will transport you in luxury, at speed and with bags of luggage space. Despite the height, it was relatively unaffected by crosswinds and my only niggle would be the positioning of the pedals, the brake being a long way back relative to the throttle.

But if in a few years' time you are tempted to buy a used Grand Cherokee, make sure it was never on the Press fleet. Remember Stallard's roller-coaster.

The dashboard oozes equipment and steep hills are no problem

GRAND CHEROKEE

Body style: 5-door, 5-seat off-roader.

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Transmission: 4-speed auto with high and low ratios and permanent Quadra-Trac 4WD.

Performance: Max speed, 112mph; 0-60mph in 9.9seconds.

Economy: Urban, 13mpg; Extra urban, 23.5mpg; combined 18.2mpg.

Equipment: Electrically operated seats (with position memory), windows and mirrors. Air conditioning, cruise control, trip computer, six-speaker stereo. Anti-lock brakes, side impact protection, dual airbags, remote central locking and alarm/ immobiliser.

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